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REPORT ON THE RESTORATION OF THE LIGHTFOOT HOUSE,

COLONIAL NHP -

Prepared by: Clyde Trudell and Raymond A. Wilhelm -

November 23, 1937

Index:

1. Introduction
2. Historical Background
3. Repairs of 1932
4. Restoration of 1935-1936
   Addendum
5. Outbuildings
   Addendum

November 23, 1937

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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FILE NO.

REPORT

ON THE

RESTORATION

OF THE

LIGHTFOOT HOUSE

COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

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Prepared by

Clyde F. Trudell, Associate Architect

ADDENDUM by - Raymond A. Wilhelm,
Resident Landscape Architect.

INDEX

1. Introduction
2. Historical Background
3. Repairs of 1932
4. Restoration of 1935-1936
Addendum
5. Outbuildings - Addendum

Nov. 1937

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

November 25, 1937.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid growth of the tobacco culture in Virginia during the late seventeenth century and the subsequent demand for adequate shipping facilities brought about the establishment of the port town of York. The site originally provided the northern terminus for a palisade of logs built across the peninsula from Jamestown on the James, to Yorktown on the York, as a defense against the Indians. This original function having been abandoned the site was still considered of enough import to cause purchase by the Crown of fifty acres at a point where the York River provides excellent anchorage and the projection of Gloucester Point narrows the water-way for easy ferriage.

The purchase was made in 1691 for ten thousand pounds of tobacco and in the same year the land was surveyed off into a grid-iron pattern for a shire-town and port. Half acre lots were laid off and sold for one hundred and eighty pounds of tobacco each with the stipulation as a covenant of the deeds conveying title that a house would be built on each purchased lot within a year of the date of purchase or the lot would be forfeited back to the trustees of the Crown.

Streets determined in the 1691 survey have maintained their original lines and names until the present day, and, although many of the lots have been both combined and divided they can be traced back through deeds and title changes to their original size and number as indicated on a still existent plat of the 1691 survey.

Lot No. 56, occupying the northeast corner of the inter-section of Main and Church Streets, is one of the few town properties that retains its original Colonial structure, now known as the Lightfoot House.

Yorktown has suffered several disastrous fires and the scourge of every major war that America has fought on her own soil. From a thriving eighteenth century port of a hundred or more buildings the little river community has dwindled to its present status. But ten structures of Colonial origin remain and they are sandwiched in between the usual nondescript modern dwellings typical of the average small American town.

In 1930 the National Park Service obtained by purchase Lot No. 56 and the structure then occupying the site. This acquisition was of prime importance because the property included the only Colonial structure within the town limits that could be readily so acquired and, occupying a

key position in the plan of the town, offered an excellent opportunity to provide there a nucleus restorative development from which future efforts might be directed. By using a thoroughly studied and carefully planned treatment of the Lightfoot House site as a proper pitch all future developments of a similar nature might be brought into proper relationship until the complete picture of Yorktown in 1781 was realized.

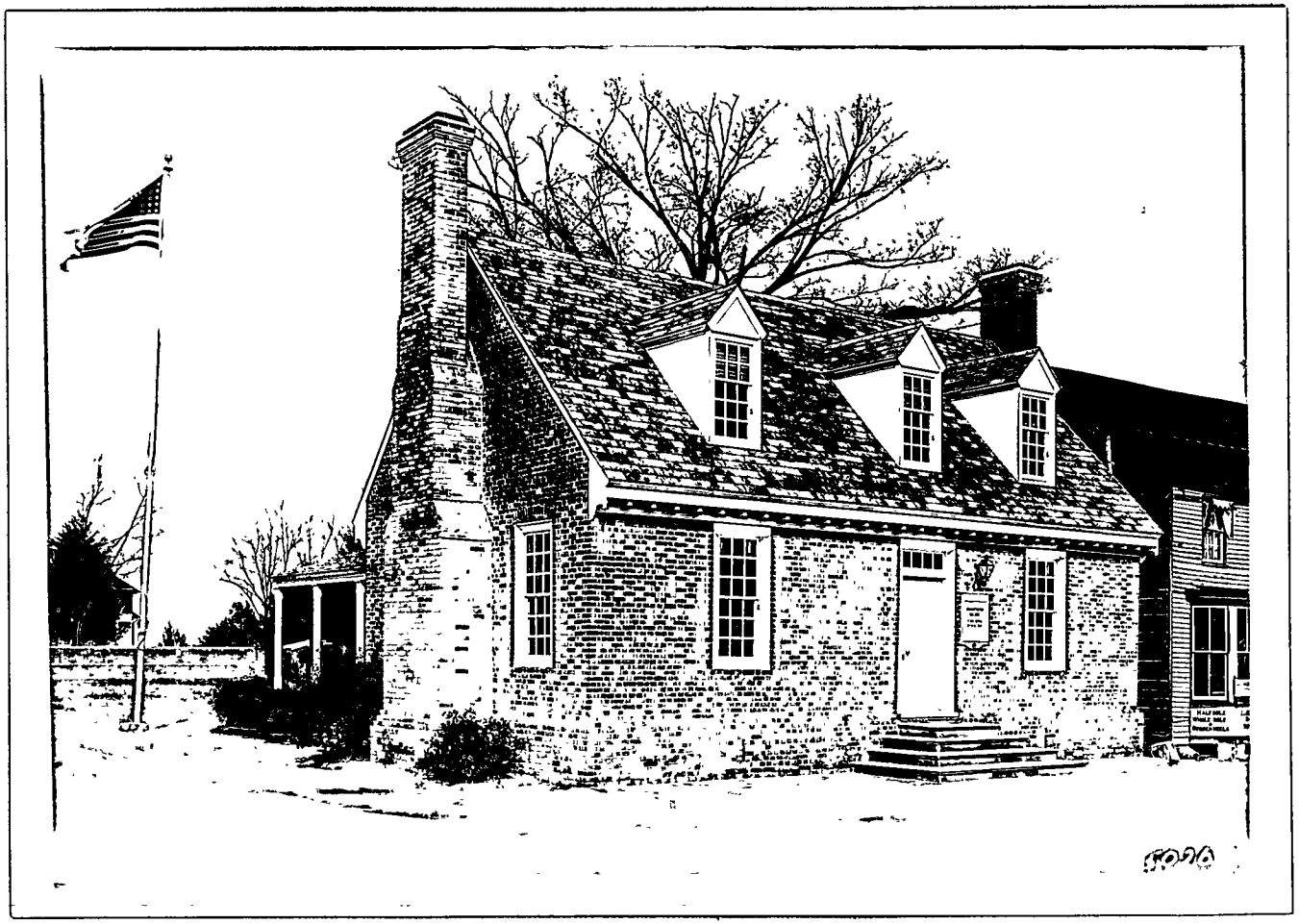
The Siege of 1781 was not conducted for the purpose of contesting a few hundred yards of hastily thrown up ditches and parapets nor did Cornwallis accept the recommendations of his military engineers to fortify Yorktown simply to present a well garrisoned system of fortifications to the enemy. The true importance of Yorktown up to, during and after the Siege was its value as a port, its easy access to the river traffic and the sea, its commercial value as a well developed business community and its strategic location commanding avenues of both advance and retreat by land and water. If Williamsburg was the Washington, D. C. of the Virginia Colony, Yorktown was its New York.

In attempting the restoration of the Lightfoot House every effort was made to keep in mind the Yorktown of 1781 and earlier. Every scrap of available documentary evidence was gone over and all physical evidences about the old structure were studied and analyzed.

Any building that has been lived in continuously for over two hundred years and has changed owners at least a dozen times, has been continually altered, added to, revamped, changed and remodelled according to the whims and needs of the various occupants presents complicated problems to the student intent upon bringing back the original conditions of the structure. Every crumb of reliable evidence that might cast a ray of light upon the baffling paradoxes that are ever present in all restoration projects should be hungrily hoarded and documentary evidence is secondary in importance only to the actual existing physical conditions.

The restorative work on the Lightfoot House was approached with this understanding and all engaged upon the work were impressed by the writer with the reasons that made the project something more than the usual construction job of brick and wood. During the progress of the work every effort was made through careful study and examination of the structure to discover as much of the early methods of construction and living as our combined minds and imaginations might conceive from our observations.

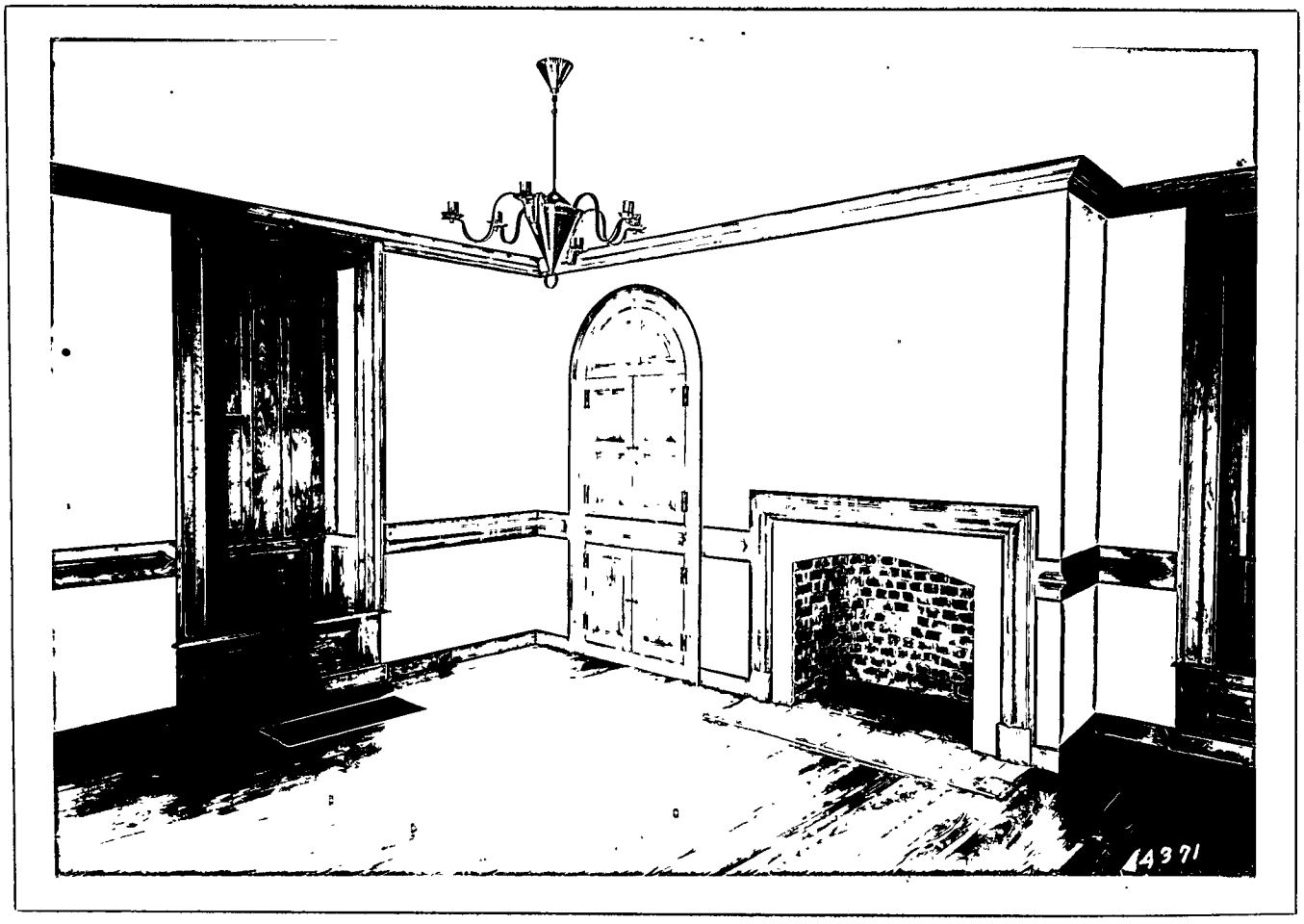
The writer's special gratitude is due to the whole hearted, intelligent and stimulating assistance of the labor foreman, Mr. Nelson Pemberton, who made of his labors that happy combination of personal interest and studious concern, the usual lack of which in workmen is constantly deplored by architects engaged upon similar pursuits.



5026 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - PROJECT COMPLETE
PHOTO - April 9, 1937.



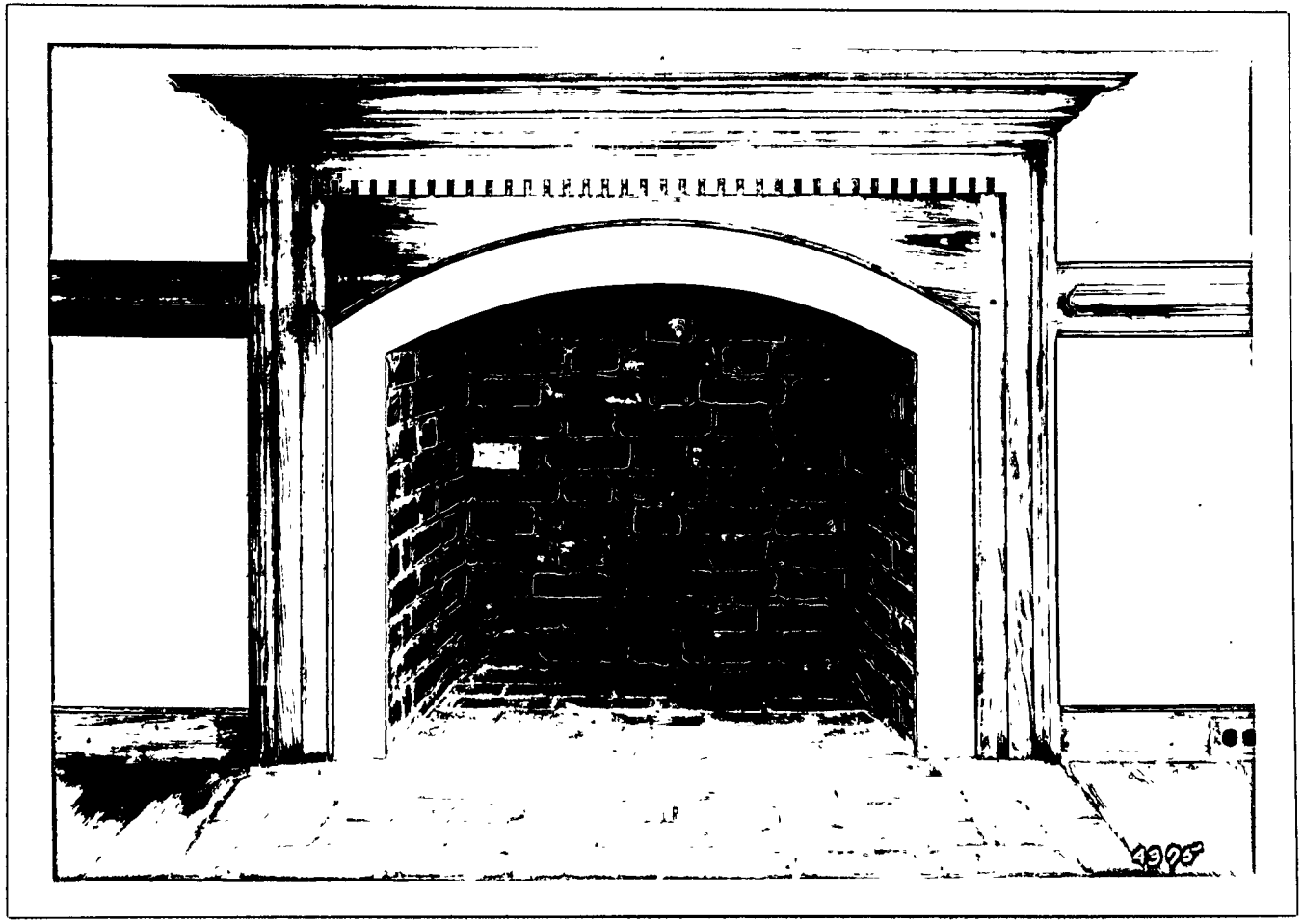
4370 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR HALL
FINISHED TRIM IN PLACE



4371 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - 1st FLOOR - REAR ROOM
FINISHED TRIM IN PLACE - PANEL BLINDS CLOSED



4373 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - 1st FLOOR - REAR ROOM
PANEL BLIND WINDOW IN PLACE AND FINISHED



4995 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - 1st FLOOR - LEFT ROOM
MANTLE IN PLACE AND FINISHED



4618 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - 1st FLOOR - RIGHT ROOM
MANTLE IN PLACE AND FINISHED.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Lot No. 36, the site of the Lightfoot House, abuts along its northerly property line on Old Grace Churchyard; faces south on Main Street and runs for the full depth of the lot along its westerly line on Church Street.

Immediately after the town survey of 1691 the property was bought by William Digges who forfeited title a year later by failure to build in accordance with the covenants of the deed of sale.

For eight years the lot then remained under the Crown trusteeship and was taken up by Robert Leightenhouse in 1699, only to be again forfeited back to the Crown through non-compliance with the building covenant.

After another eight years had elapsed, Elizabeth Powers purchased the lot and obtained clear title, probably by building, as the property remained in the Powers name until 1715. To have satisfied the covenant, building must have been effected during or immediately after 1707, the date of the Powers purchase. The year previous, 1706, the Custom House had been built in Yorktown, the first structure of its kind to be erected on the American continent. At this period, Yorktown was the port of entry for all goods and shipping to and from Virginia and cargoes destined for Philadelphia, New York, Boston or England were forced by law to clear through the Yorktown Custom House. The tremendous growth of the tobacco trade poured wealth into the town and the structures erected at that time were sturdily and substantially constructed. It is significant that of the ten Colonial buildings still standing in Yorktown of the hundred or more that graced the town before the Siege of 1781, five of the ten were built during the ten years between 1697 and 1707.

Elizabeth Powers died intestate and her sole heir, Joseph Mountfoot, inherited her property in 1715, conveying Lot No. 36 and the house thereon to Philip Lightfoot by deed in the same year.

Philip Lightfoot and his wife, Mary Walker, held title to the property and lived in the house for sixty-seven years. During that time they saw Yorktown develop into a thriving commercial town. They witnessed the erection of the elaborate Nelson mansions, perhaps as elegant as any town houses in all Virginia. They lived through the terrible days of the Revolution and experienced the Siege of 1781. From their property they may have seen the sky aglow with the flames of the burning British fleet. The bombardment of the French and Colonial forces may have fallen upon their ears as the crack of doom and they probably saw many of their neighbors' houses destroyed by the cannonading. It is even possible that their own dwelling was struck, explaining many of the puzzling patches in the brick walls that show decided evidence of very early repair that may have been made necessary by the passage of cannon balls.

Because of the long tenureship of the Lightfoot family and their occupancy during the Siege of 1781, the building bears their name. It is also more than likely that the first structure on the lot, built by Elizabeth Powers, is now the rear wing of the Lightfoot House, and that the front wing was built by Philip Lightfoot. The character of brick masonry displayed on the rear wing certainly presents many earlier details than that of the front wing. These differences will be discussed at length in the construction phases of this report.

During the year that peace was finally gained by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the property was conveyed by deed from Philip and his wife to John Moss of Richmond. Moss built a store on the eastern half of the lot and in 1798 deeded the store to another John Moss of Yorktown, while six years later the western half of the lot containing the Lightfoot House was conveyed to Peyton Southall.

The two halves of the lot were once more joined in 1812 when Southall's administratrix obtained title to both properties. The lot was still again divided by sale in 1865 and has remained so divided until the present time. It was the western half of the lot occupied by the Lightfoot House and the remains of certain ancient outbuilding foundations that became the property of the United States Government through purchase by the National Park Service in 1930.

During the Civil War a stable was moved behind and joined to the rear wing and the structure thus enlarged was used as a hospital for the Federal troops. After the Civil War the entire structure was made into a hotel and in quite recent years (about 1870) the stable addition was added to by a long, rambling, two story frame structure of bed rooms and an additional full story was added over the stable portion which was originally but one story in height.

The old brick building with its later multiple frame additions was still in use as a hotel when taken over by the National Park Service and was used by that organization as an administration building and dormitory quarters for the staff until the completion of the reconstructed Swan Tavern in 1934.

The earliest insurance record available (1817) indicates the Lightfoot House as a T-shaped building of brick with wood shingle roof. It also shows a store building on the eastern half of the lot, probably the structure built by John Moss of Richmond around 1798. The outbuildings at the rear of the western half of the lot are also shown in their approximate locations and are noted as being a kitchen, stable, dairy and smokehouse. The dates of the erection of the outbuildings are not yet determined but in all probability they were much later than the main house itself. They were however, as listed in the insurance records, the typical structures to be found in connection with dwellings of the Lightfoot House style and period. If they were original to the early period of the Lightfoot House they then present certain puzzling phases

that made their interpretation difficult in the light of restoration. For instance, the stable is noted in the insurance records as being sixteen feet square, but Peyton Southall, occupying the house from 1804 until 1812 had, according to his recorded inventory, three horses, two cows, a carriage and a cart. It is difficult to see how he managed to keep them all in such a small stable.

Discussion and results of the writer's study of the outbuildings will be found in another section of this report designated "5. OUTBUILDINGS".

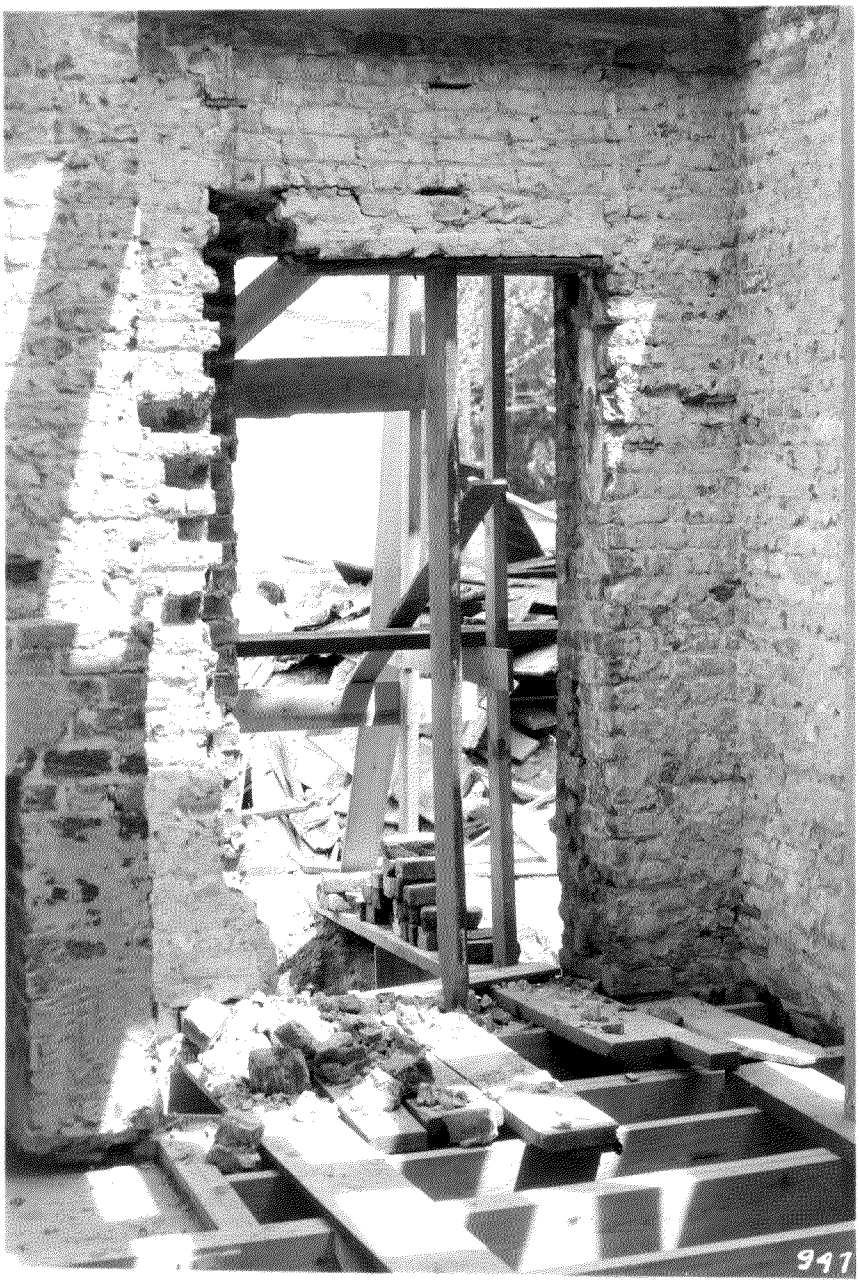
3. REPAIRS OF 1932

The following recorded observations from the written notes of former Superintendent Robinson made during his inspection of the Lightfoot House prior to the repairs of 1932 are quoted with comments of the present writer noted in parenthesis.

"July 14, 1932. Observations made by the Superintendent on the work being done to Headquarters Building." (The Lightfoot House).

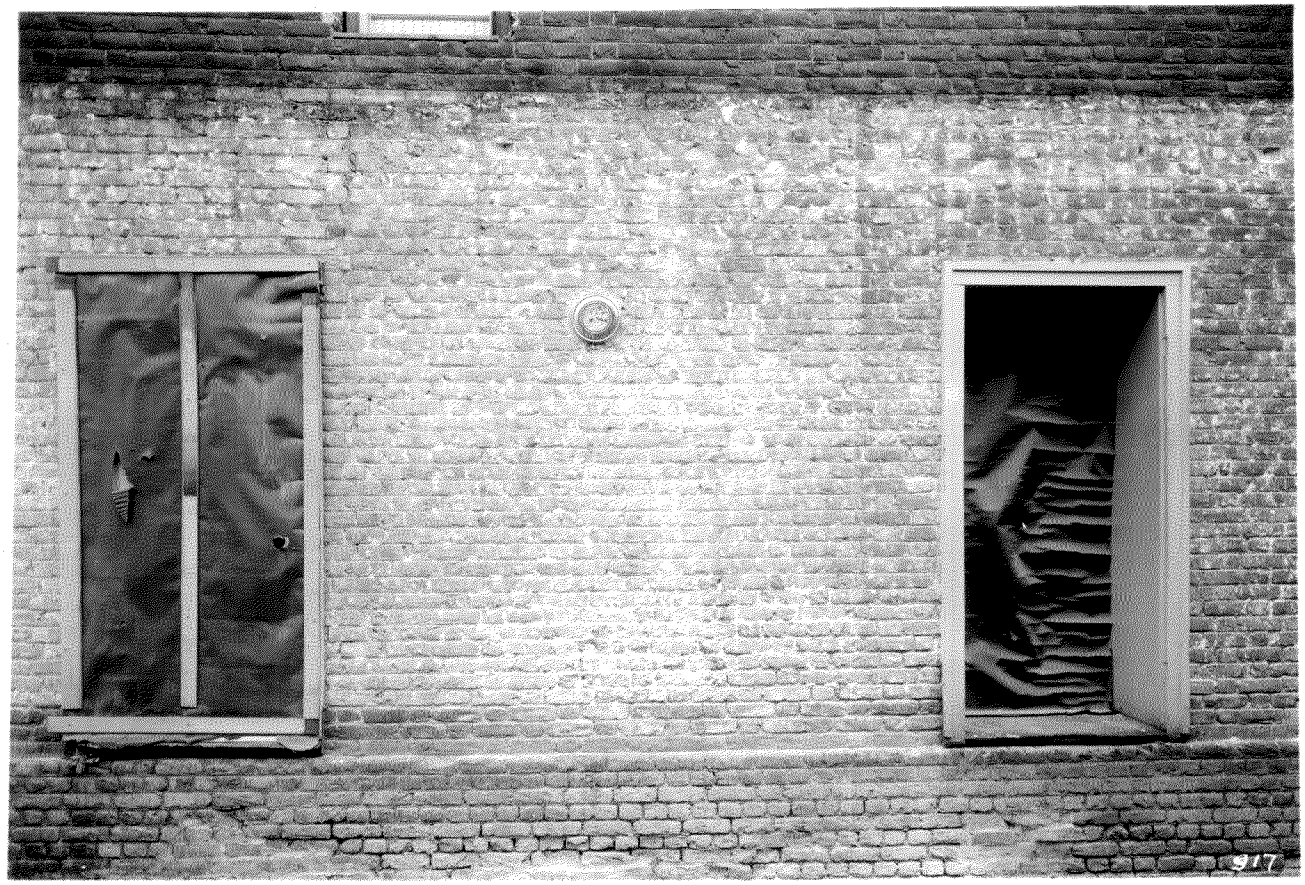
"Downstairs. North Room. Door on east side shows as original. Opening on east side of door with quarter closers. There are no quarter closers on west side of door." (This "door" was found after careful study to have been originally a window; the closers extended down only to sill height and were part of the original east jamb of the window, the west jamb having been destroyed when the window opening was enlarged into a doorway in modern times to provide access to the rear wing. The outline of the original condition of the east window jamb was clearly marked on the face of the brick masonry. The location of the holes in the brickwork intended to take the early window frame indicated that the window had been of the recessed type - probably with panelled jambs and head soffit - and provided with a seat as evidenced by the brickwork being finished off to a thin wall below the sill and breaking back to the full wall thickness at seat height (Photo. No. 947). This condition was exactly as occurred in the first floor windows of the Shield House in Yorktown and the Glebe House across the river in Gloucester County, both houses being of the same period as the Lightfoot House. The Gloucester Glebe presents many other similar characteristics to the Lightfoot House being also T-shaped in plan with similar masonry, roof framing, etc.)(Photo. No. 917).

"One of the (ceiling) joists is hewn on each side; another joist is spliced." (The "spliced" joist was at one time framed at its free end into a header forming an opening in the second floor probably for a ladder stairway. As the joist had been so obviously cut at a much later date than the original floor framing and showed no evidence of the splice serving any early function this condition was not considered in the 1935-1936 restoration work.) (Photo. No. 934).



Number 947

"East window in North Wall of rear wing showing original masonry jamb (right) with indication on brickwork of condition suggesting window seat."



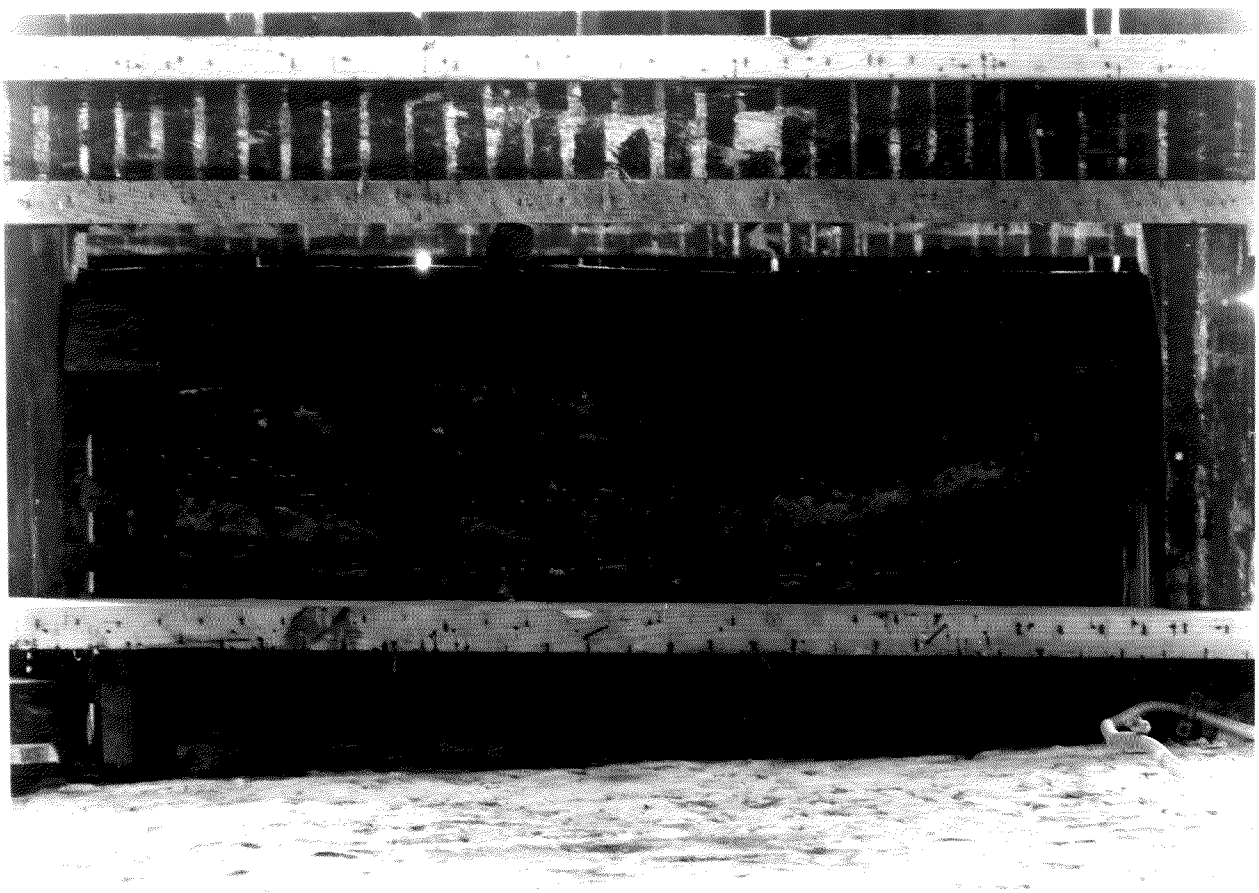
Number 917

"Opening in North Wall of Rear Wing. The left opening was originally a window. The right opening was cut thru in modern times to gain access to the modern rear frame wing."



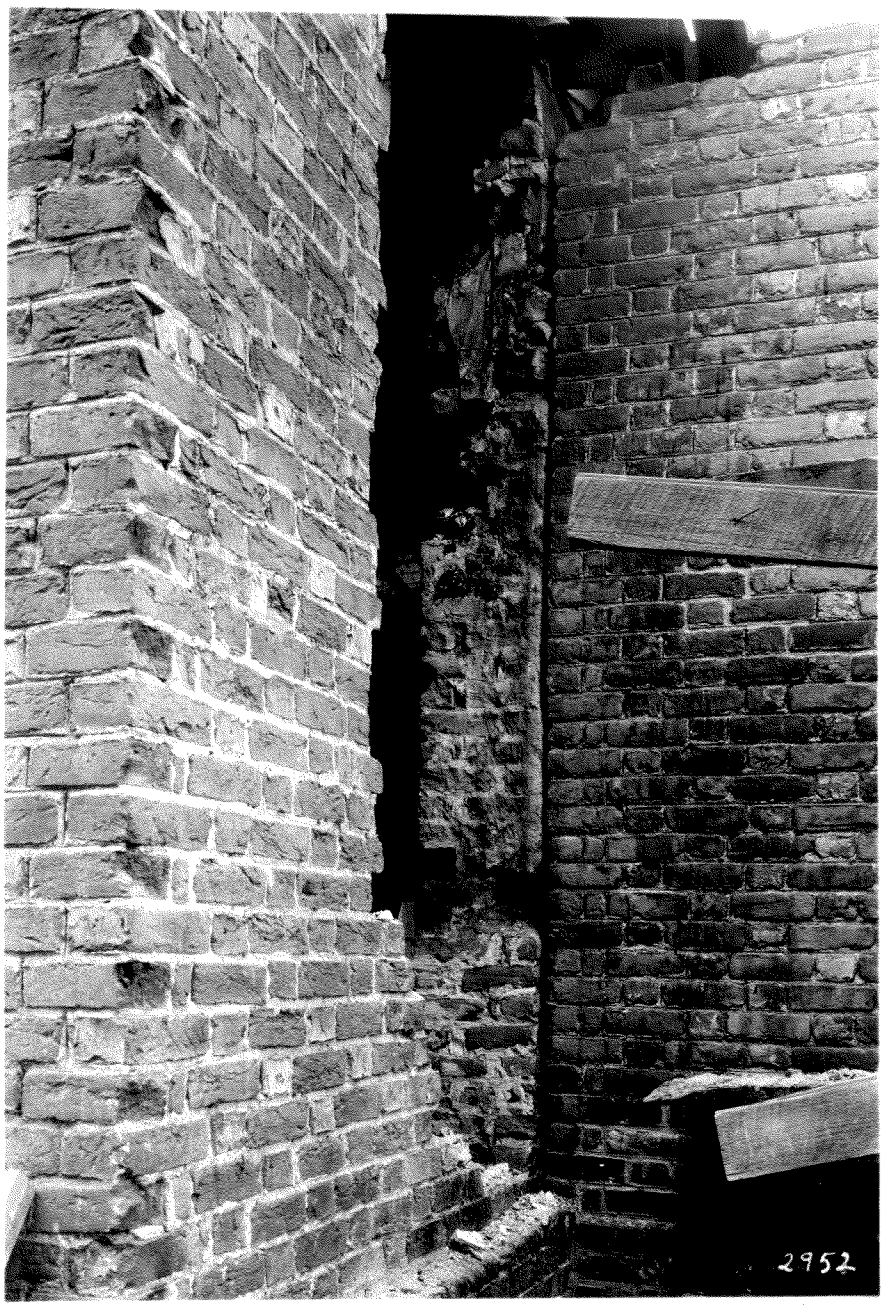
Number 934

"Rear wing second floor framing showing former stair well."



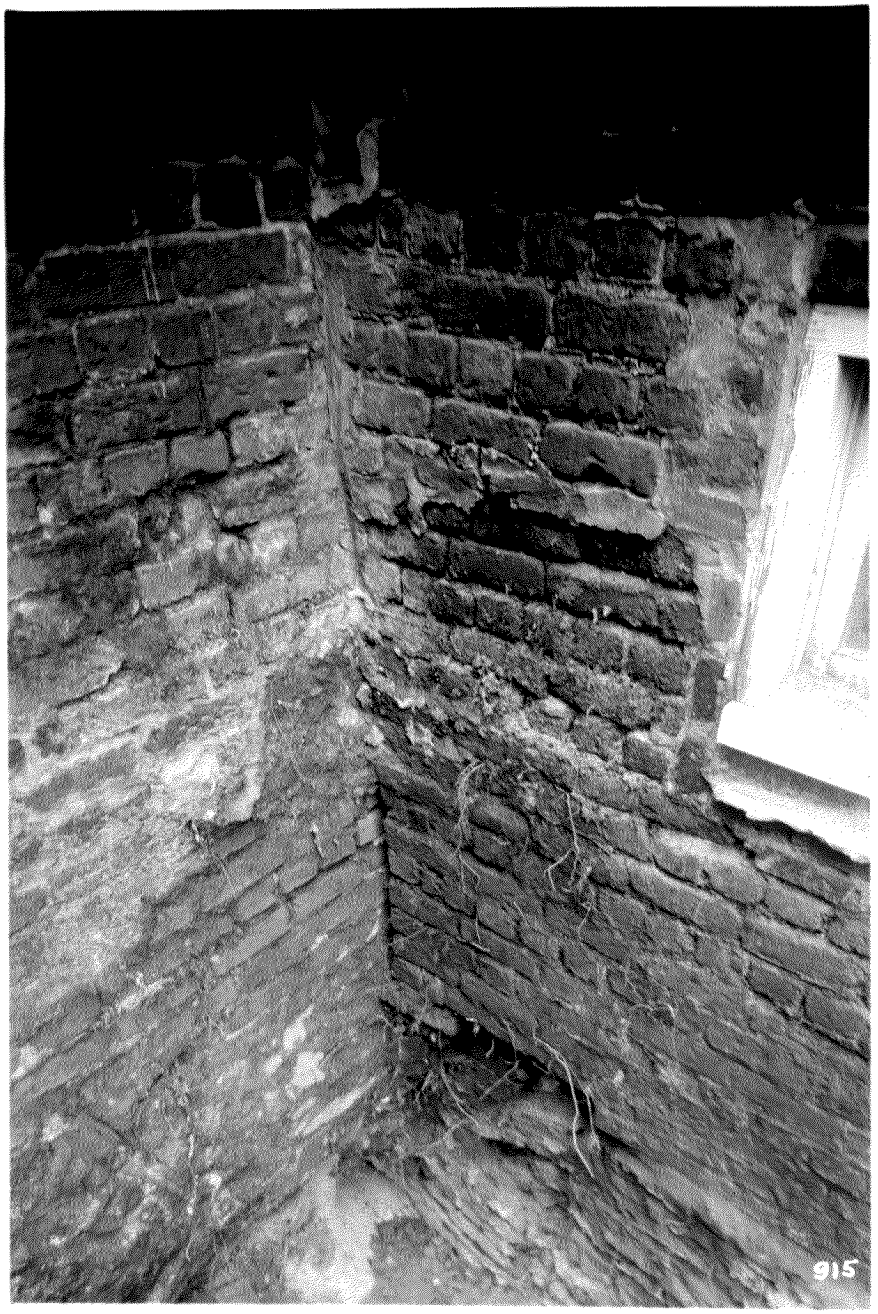
Number 935

"Underside of rear Wing second floor fireplace hearth."



Number 2952

"Intersection of front and rear wings, east side, showing the "gap" between the two wings."



Number 915

"Intersection of rear and front wings showing the two walls never were bonded together."

Philip Lightfoot in 1716". (The first reference to a store being on the eastern half of Lot 30 occurs in the deed of conveyance of 1798, John Moss of Richmond to John Moss of York County. As John Moss of Richmond acquired the property from Philip Lightfoot in 1783 and no store was known to exist prior to that time it is more probable that if an early door opening was cut in the east wall as access to the store, it was done after 1783 and was certainly not in existence in 1716. As both the door and window openings of the east wall, when examined in 1935, evinced every evidence of being modern work and as the purpose of the restoration was to recreate the condition of 1781 when no door was known to have occurred at this location, the opening was bricked up during the work of 1935-1936.)

"The door into the southeast room was cut in recent years by Mr. Dunston. From the upper left hand corner of this door there is a brick arch which extends back into the opening between the two parts of this building for a distance of about two feet". (There seems to be no ready explanation of this arch, although it has been pondered and studied by the writer at considerable length. Occurring as it does in the rear wall of the front wing it is the only evidence that might suggest that the front wing antedates the rear wing in time of construction.)

"East Room. There is evidence of an old stair well in the northwest corner of this room. (At the second floor). The lookout beam appears to be gum and the joist poplar. This would clearly indicate that the stair well had been put in afterwards, because if it had not, the joist and the lookout beam would undoubtedly have originally constituted a single member". (Photo. No. 929)(The condition of the stair well framing does not indicate that the well was put in afterwards but on the contrary decisively demonstrates that the well was original with the floor framing. There is no substantial reason why the lookout beam and the joist in question should have been of the same material. Both pine and poplar were used throughout the framing of the house but the two members mentioned in Major Robinson's observations as gum and poplar were both actually of heart pine. This well was opened up and the stairway rebuilt in the restoration of 1935-1936.)

"The studding in the inside wall seems to be colonial framing. It was probably always in its present position." (The partition referred to showed every evidence of NOT being part of the original framing. It had none of the characteristics of the west hall partition which was framed according to typical colonial prototypes, the studding being housed into the floor and notched into the beam at the head. The east hall partition, however, was nailed in a most haphazard manner at the head to one of the second floor joists and merely rested on the floor at the base. The crowded condition of the front door jamb against this partition would suggest that the wall had been moved over at some former time and there is every reason to believe that the hall was originally much larger or wider because as early as 1811, according to the inventory of Peyton Southall, the hall accommodated one dozen chairs, one table and one tea stand, an apparent impossibility were the hall as small as found in 1935.)



Number 929

"Second floor framing showing original stair wall opening in east room of Front Wing."

"The east wall appears to have been cut after its construction to admit the addition of a chimney". (The writer concurs in Major Robinson's observation that the east chimney was added after the wall was laid up, although the character of the brick masonry in this chimney indicates that it was built at a very early date, decidedly prior to 1781.)

"Hall. The present staircase including all the framing has every air of being a modern structure." (A most correct assumption).

"On the south wall between the door and the west wall there is a header two courses down from the top of the brickwork." (There is every evidence that an early window originally occurred in the front wall between the door and the west window but the character of the brick masonry shows that it was bricked up at a very early date. At the time this opening existed, the front door may have occupied the center of the building instead of being off-center to the east as it now is found. The nature of the multiple mortar patchings and repointing of the brick work on the front wall is all of a most early character indicating that the door and window openings, if they were changed, were changed at a very early date to their present locations. Although the window openings were again altered to take the modern frames found in them in 1935, they occupy approximately the same locations to which the early changes mentioned above brought them.)

"West Room. The west wall was found to have been cut for the addition of the chimney. There were old brick in this chimney up to about the level of the hearth (first floor) and from there up the brick seemed to be new and probably were laid about 1878." (According to information tendered by Mrs. C. W. Sheild of Yorktown, the west chimney was struck by lightning around 1900 and was rebuilt above the base at that time.)

"If there were any other peculiarities in this room they probably will show in the Landscape Division notes which were made from day to day as the work progressed." (The only Landscape Division notes on record of the repairs of 1932 consist of a series of free hand measurement sketches and long hand penciled observations made on a small scratch pad, referring to the condition of the roof framing and the fireplaces. These notes mention a condition of splintered rafters and patching/in the roof sheathing at the west chimney with the notation, "It had been splintered from the north side, apparently by a cannon ball." Inasmuch as the cannonading of both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars were from the south this conjectural explanation requires investigation. The patches were more than likely the result of patching holes caused by falling brick when, or if, the west chimney was struck by lightning in 1900. These notes also call attention to the original lack of a full basement as the original brick foundations extended down but 4'-8" below the first floor sill plate. The observer at this time also noted the obvious later date of the two outside chimneys as the walls, both east and west, had been cut through to provide for the fireplaces.

Insofar as the writer has been able to discover from available information and questioning those who had been engaged on the work, the repairs of 1932 consisted of the following renovations:

1. Replastering the entire interior, partly on metal lath.
2. Strengthening some of the floor framing.
3. Rebuilding all of the fireplaces with antique brick furnished by the Navy Mine Depot. (Probably from the ruins of Bellfield.) At the time of these repairs, all of the fireplaces were found to have been bricked up with holes cut in the chimney breasts for stove pipes.
4. New mantels were made up or those existing found usable were repaired.
5. All of the woodwork was painted.
6. All of the black electrical wire found in the building was replaced with BX cable.
7. A supporting tie-rod was installed through the top of the badly settled east chimney and bolted to the most easterly pair of rafters in the attic.

From 1932, until 1934, the building was used as the administrative offices and staff quarters for the National Park Service assigned to Colonial National Monument. The writer did not enter on duty at Yorktown until October of 1933 and his connection with the Lightfoot House started in August of 1934 with his preparing sketches for converting the structure into a modern residence. These sketches were made at the request of Superintendent Flickinger, were disapproved by the Branch of Plans and Design and the writer then entered his study of the building which resulted in the restoration work of 1935-1936.

4. RESTORATION OF 1935-1936.

The eminent historian, Charles Harris Whitaker, has deftly put in a few words the obstacle that confronts every research worker and every attempted restoration of an ancient structure.

"When we look thoughtfully and seriously at the past," wrote Mr. Whitaker, "and try to vision what went on in it, we discover that the past is not easy to rebuild.....the evidence we seek is scanty at best. How make for ourselves a completely truthful picture of the life of fifty or a hundred years ago....? The answer is there is no way. Only imagination can make that picture for us - whether it be our own or that of another."

As all restoration work is to a considerable extent based upon the imagination, especially so where much concrete evidence is lacking, each problem must be approached with the imagination in proper key. The known customs, habits, details, acts and characteristics of the place and period must be constantly imagined as happening to and around the problem at hand. Out of all possible solutions that might be imagined

the most apropos and logical is selected to suit each particular instance.

If, in the restoration of the Lightfoot House, such changes and alterations were made to the structure that cannot be authoratively vouched for by actual evidence, they can readily be accepted by any open imagination as being typical of houses of the same period and character. For every detail that was introduced into the architectural treatment there are myriad precedents in other buildings of the same age and section. Wherever possible, details used were known to have been employed in the original condition of the building in 1781, but where this information was not available, the imagination was employed to suppose that identical conditions in similar structures would have received very similar treatment in the Lightfoot House.

The first work after the repairs of 1932 was made possible by a fund of $3,000 which was set up to eliminate fire hazards and was approved by Chief Forester Coffman on August 9, 1934, to be expended on "reconditioning" the Lightfoot House. The preliminary attempts of Superintendent Flickinger to have the building converted into a modern residence for some member of the permanent staff of Colonial National Monument were disapproved by the Branch of Plans and Design because that branch thought that before any permanent changes were made to the building a serious study should be made to determine as nearly as possible the physical condition of the building in 1781. To this end the branch recommended that measured drawings be prepared of the structure as it existed in 1934 and another set of drawings be prepared incorporating all of the documentary and physical evidence available showing the structure as it probably appeared in 1781. Out of this recommendation grew the decision to restore rather than to renovate the old building.

With the initial appropriation of $3,000 mentioned above, work was started in January 1935, under the supervision of the writer to provide solid concrete foundations under the old walls replacing the modern stone rubble foundations that had been placed under the walls when the first basement was dug, probably late in the nineteenth century. While this work was progressing the writer made measured drawings of the structure and then started a set of drawings upon which the restoration work was based.

An additional and separate E. C. W. project was set up to provide funds and labor for razing the long modern frame additions attached to the rear of the original brick structure and this work was executed under the direction and supervision of Foremen Dunston and Oleun.

As the construction work progressed and as details were required, they were prepared by the writer. Before any work was executed from these drawings, they were approved by the Branch of Plans and Design, the Branch of Engineering, and by the Director. They were also submitted to the Historical Division of Colonial National Monument for review and approval. In every case the drawings received unqualified approval from the historians and upon their endorsement received the approval of the Park Superintendent.

At the same time the Lightfoot House work was active the writer was superintending the architectural construction of the Yorktown Wharf buildings, the Medical Shop, Swan Tavern outbuildings, the Foreman house and Cedar Point residence, and during this period he also prepared drawings for the proposed new Courthouse layout, a sentry cabin for the Navy Mine Depot, Club House for the personnel of Colonial, checked drawings for and inspected the sites of the Custodian's dwelling and Public Comfort Station at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and the two highway bridges at Williamsburg and assisted in the preparation of a new layout for the Beer Farm Maintenance and Utility Area.

All drawings for the restoration of the Lightfoot House were prepared by the writer with the exception of plans for the installation of the heating, plumbing and electrical work which were made by Mr. Charles Andrae of the Washington Office, Branch of Plans and Design.

As none of the brickwork could be patched or repaired until solid foundations had been provided under the brick walls the concrete work was the initial step of the restoration. The task of placing the concrete was, by its very nature, a long slow process. The old brick walls were everywhere badly cracked and settled and elaborate systems of shoring and bracing were devised to support the superstructure while the modern stone rubble foundations were removed and the concrete poured in place. (See Photo No. 932). Four foot sections of the walls were treated at a time after the stone had been removed and proper bracing had been provided for the structure immediately above. The soil was then excavated down to solid bearing, reinforcing steel placed and a spread footing poured. Wood forming for a concrete wall the same width as the old brick foundation wall above was constructed and concrete poured into the forms. (See Photo No. 925). In many cases where the old brick walls were badly settled out of line it was necessary to jack them back into plumb before the concrete could be poured under them.

Although there never had been a basement under the building when it was originally built (See Photo No. 918) the new concrete walls were carried down far enough to provide basement height throughout both front and rear wings. This provision was to allow for heating and toilet facilities which were intended to be placed in the basement so that the original interior arrangement of the first and second floor plans would not have to be altered.

The razing of the rear frame wing although started in January was not completed until June as the crew was continually taken off this work for apparently more important duties (See Photo No. 2836).

As the front wing of the brick structure continued to be used for the Park Superintendent and Rangers offices after the work of restoration had started, efforts were concentrated upon the rear brick wing until late in March when the aforementioned offices were moved to the newly reconstructed Swan Tavern. Due to the slowness in razing the rear frame portion and the fact that work had to be concentrated for three months upon the rear brick wing where space conditions would not permit the employment of more than a few men, progress of the construction work was slow and limited.



Number 932

"Showing method of supporting wall between front and rear wings while new concrete foundation was poured."



Number 925

"East wall of Rear Wing showing part of new concrete foundation in place."



Number 918

"Excavation at East Wall of Rear Wing showing depth of original walls indicating there never originally was a basement."



Number 2836

"The rear frame wing half demolished. The Lightfoot House is immediately out of the picture to the right."

Considerable time was spent by the writer in locating antique brick that would match the various types of brick in the Lightfoot House. The brick in the rear wing differed from that of the front wing in both size and color. The brick of the east chimney was different from any used in the two wings and the ancient brick found in the base of the west chimney was again different from the rest. Field trips were made to at least a score of ruins and foundations of early eighteenth century structures before the proper brick were located and every effort was made to confine selection to sites within a short distance from Yorktown. (See Photo No. 3339). During the progress of the work, over twenty-two thousand antique brick were purchased from the following sites:

Greenbriar Farm	Charles City County	two thousand brick
Mitchell Tract	New Kent County	seven thousand brick
Pyle Plantation	James City County	six thousand brick
Hubbard Tract	Charles City County	five thousand brick
Powell Farm	Warwick County	three thousand brick

Anyone familiar with the characteristics of old brick appreciates the difficulty of matching color and size in restoration work. Before any of the salvaged brick was used sample panels were laid up and experiments made to match the texture of the original walls and color of the original mortar. (See Photo No. 941). To match the old mortar several different types of sand were employed, burned oyster shells were slaked for weeks on the job to make the lime and the old raked joints of the original masonry were carefully copied. It is a tribute to the brick masons employed upon the work and to the diligence with which they selected brick for the restored portions of the walls that it is now impossible to tell which brick and mortar were original to the building and which are "new". (See Photo No. 938). Only about one-half of the thousands of antique brick purchased for the work were suitable for use but it was necessary to buy the others to get those that were usable.

One of the first uses made of the brick thus purchased was to brick up the modern openings in the north wall of the rear wing at both the first and second floors. (See Photo No. 914).

The east wall of the rear wing was in perhaps the worst condition of any part of the building. A modern door and two windows in the basement and one in the first floor had been cut through the wall and the remaining original brickwork was very badly cracked and settled. (See Photo No. 920). The wall was jacked back into plumb, the modern openings bricked up (See Photo No. 948) and a new window provided in the location of the original eighteenth century opening (See Photo No. 2942).

For the remainder of this report, all work that was found not to have been original with the building or prior to 1781, will be referred to as "modern". All work that was executed during the restoration of the structure to bring back the original conditions will be referred to as "new".

While waiting on the razing of the rear frame wing the modern composition roofing was removed from the original building revealing the old roof sheathing



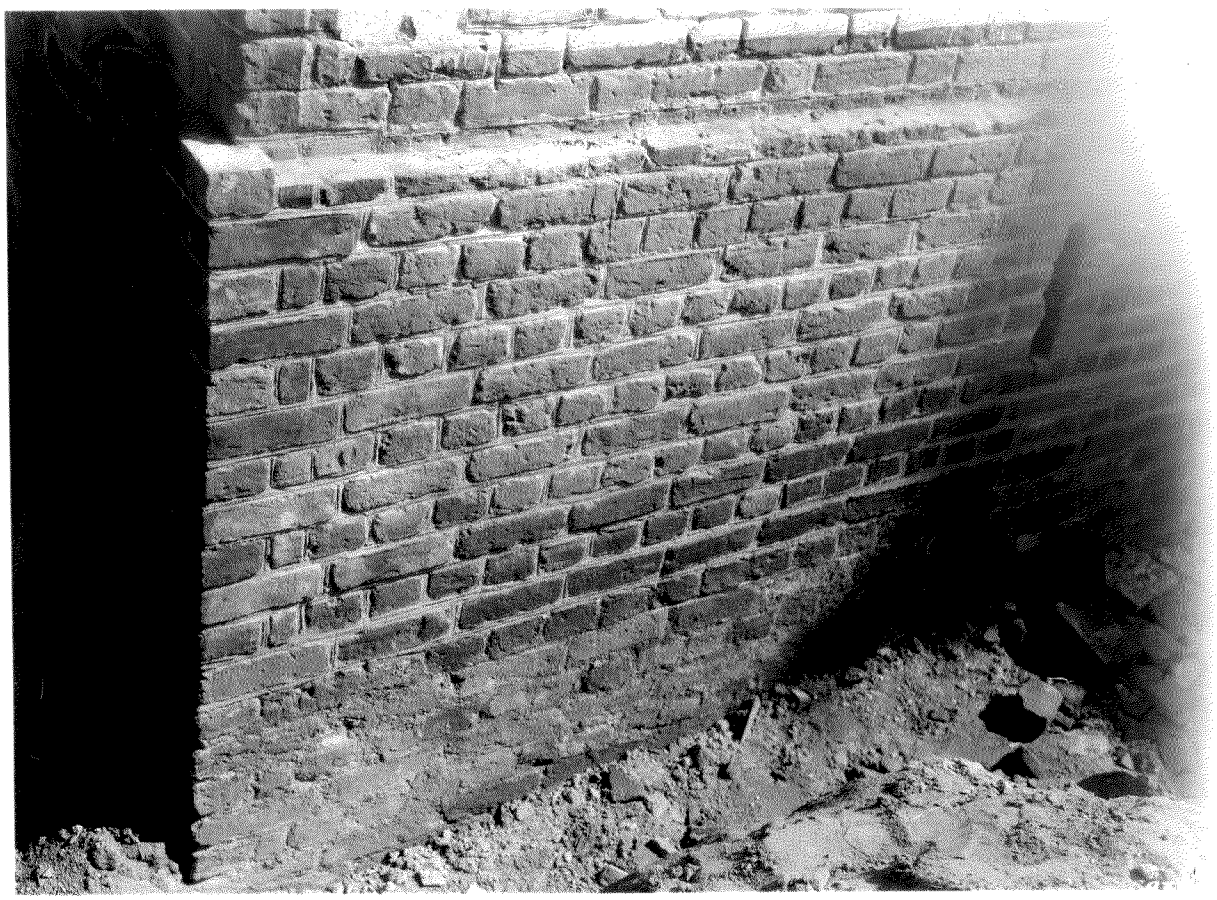
Number 3339

"Hacking brick from ruins of Colonial structure on Powell Farm, Warwick County, for use in restoration of Lightfoot House."



Number 941

"Sample brick panel set up to test color of brick and mortar before using on the job."



Number 938

"Northeast corner of Rear Wing. This entire corner has been rebuilt showing how closely the "restored" brickwork matches the original."



Number 914

"North Wall of Rear Wing showing modern opening cut thru at second floor to give access to modern frame wing at rear."



Number 990

"East Wall of Rear Wing showing modern openings and badly settled and cracked brick wall."



Number 948

"East wall of rear wing showing modern opening and patching being bricked up."



Number 2942

"East Wall of rear wing showing the modern openings being bricked up and a new window being built into place."

and also indicating the much more recent addition of the long front porch that had probably been added across the front of the building around 1860. (See Photo. No. 923). This porch was subsequently removed. (See Photo No. 924). The dormers were found to be of fairly recent construction (probably replacing earlier ones in the same locations) and were also removed. Inasmuch as the roof framing had been cut and altered to take the dormers it is probable that originally the second floor had no dormers but evidence also indicated by the manner in which the dormers had been provided that they had been added at a very early date; for the purposes of the restoration, concrete evidence to the contrary being lacking, it was assumed that the dormers had been added prior to 1781 and had later been replaced by the modern affairs that were removed as mentioned above.

The second floor fireplace of the rear wing was found to have been of very modern construction (See Photo. No. 938) and the chimney flue showed every sign of having been cut through to accommodate this modern fireplace so in the restoration work the fireplace was entirely removed (See Photo No. 937).

The first floor framing and wall plates of the rear wing being in a very unsound condition, they were entirely removed (See Photo No. 931). Inasmuch as a porch was planned for the west side of the rear wing and some light and ventilation was required for the rear wing basement toilets windows were provided under the porch floor. There never were windows in this location but modern needs made them mandatory and they were placed under the porch floor to keep them concealed. They were made up to a typical colonial detail for basement windows and grilles so that if the porch in later years is ever removed, they will not be out of character with the rest of the building. (See Photos 934 and 936). Above the watertable in the west wall of the rear wing the modern window frame was removed from the altered original opening and the modern door was bricked up. (See Photo 2858). A new window frame was made up and the window opening restored to its original size (See Photo 2941). In the northwest wall of the front wing the modern brickwork around the modern door opening was cut out, a new door frame made up and a new basement window built into the basement wall (See Photo. 3285).

The rafters were found to be in such a decayed condition at the wall plate of the rear wing that they were all removed (See Photo. 940).

The original fund of $3,000 was soon exhausted and work was stopped on the job for several weeks until an additional allotment of $10,000 was received on July 15, 1935 and work was once more resumed.

After excavations and foundations had been completed for the basement walls of the rear wing, tile partitions were laid up forming the Boiler Room (See Photo 939).

With the removal of the porch across the front wing excavations were carried across the front of the building searching for the original grade conditions. The brick foundations of ancient steps and a fragment of ancient brick paving were discovered and carefully uncovered (See Photos 950 and 951).



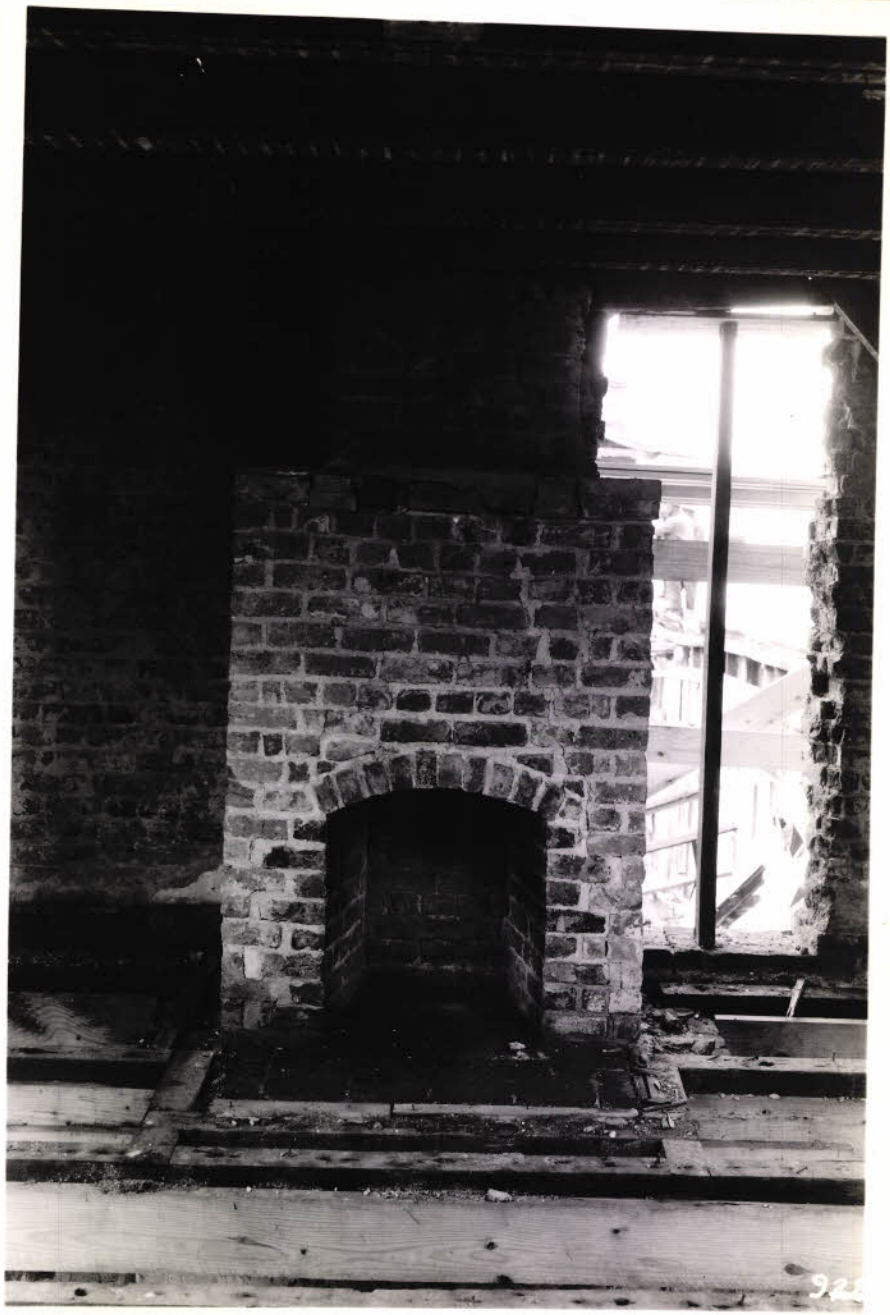
Number 925

"South side of front wing showing modern composition roofing removed and indicating very modern addition of front porch."



Number 9R4

"South side of Front Wing showing modern porch and dormers removed."



Number 928

"Showing modern fireplace at second floor of rear wing."



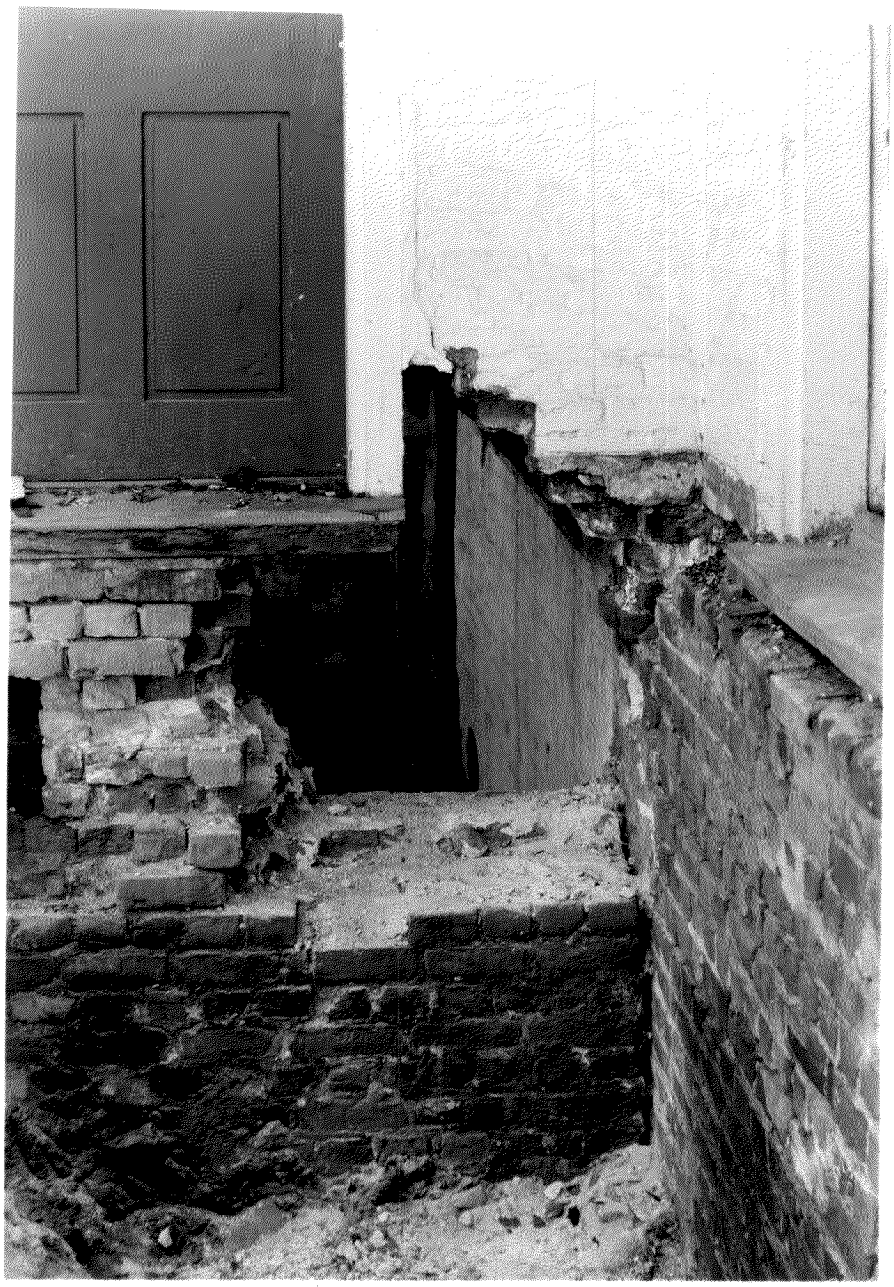
Number 937

"Rear wing showing second floor fireplace removed revealing how the chimney had been cut through to accomodate this modern fireplace."



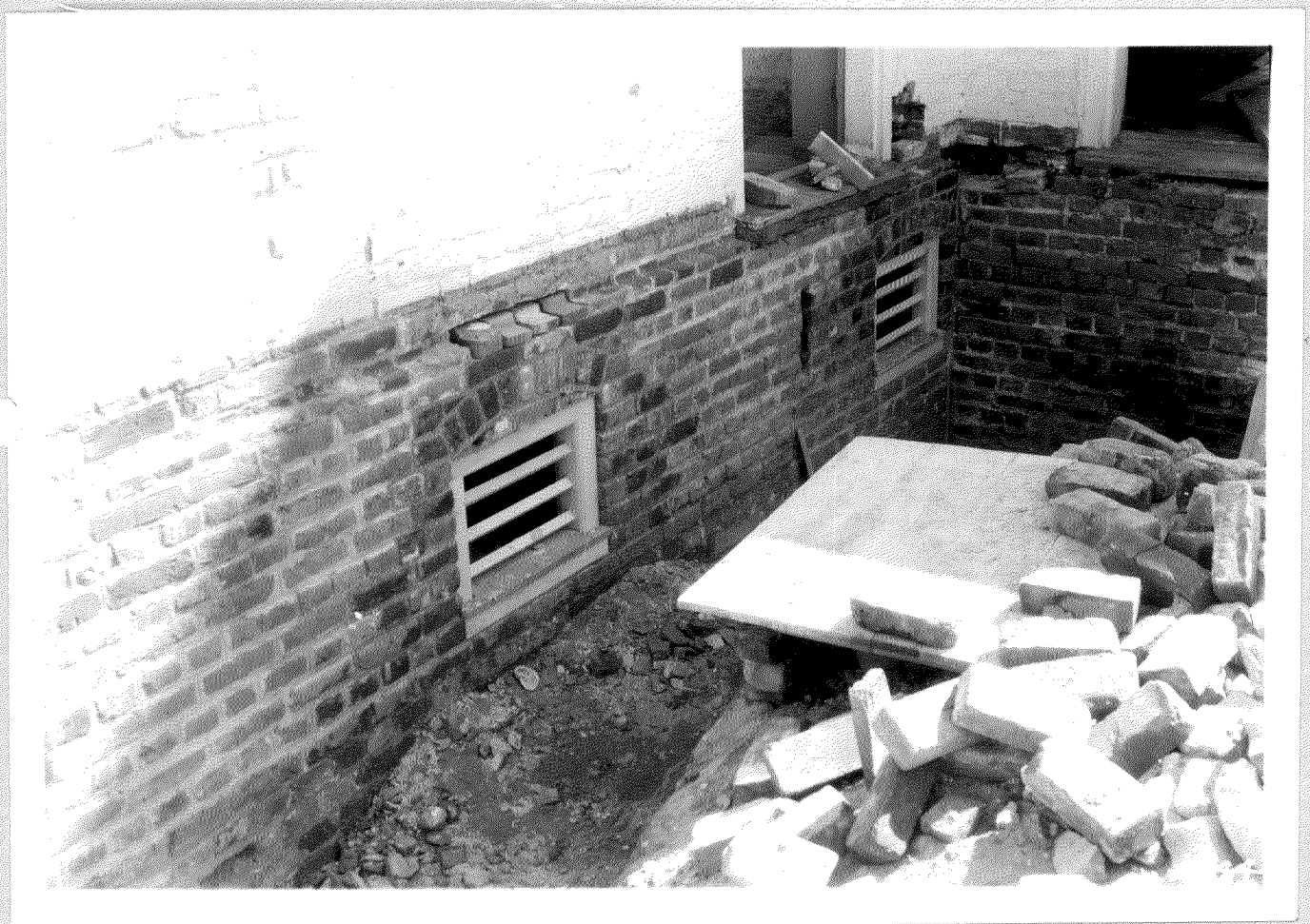
Number 931

"Rear wing, showing first floor framing removed and chimney supported on blocking preparatory to pouring concrete foundation."



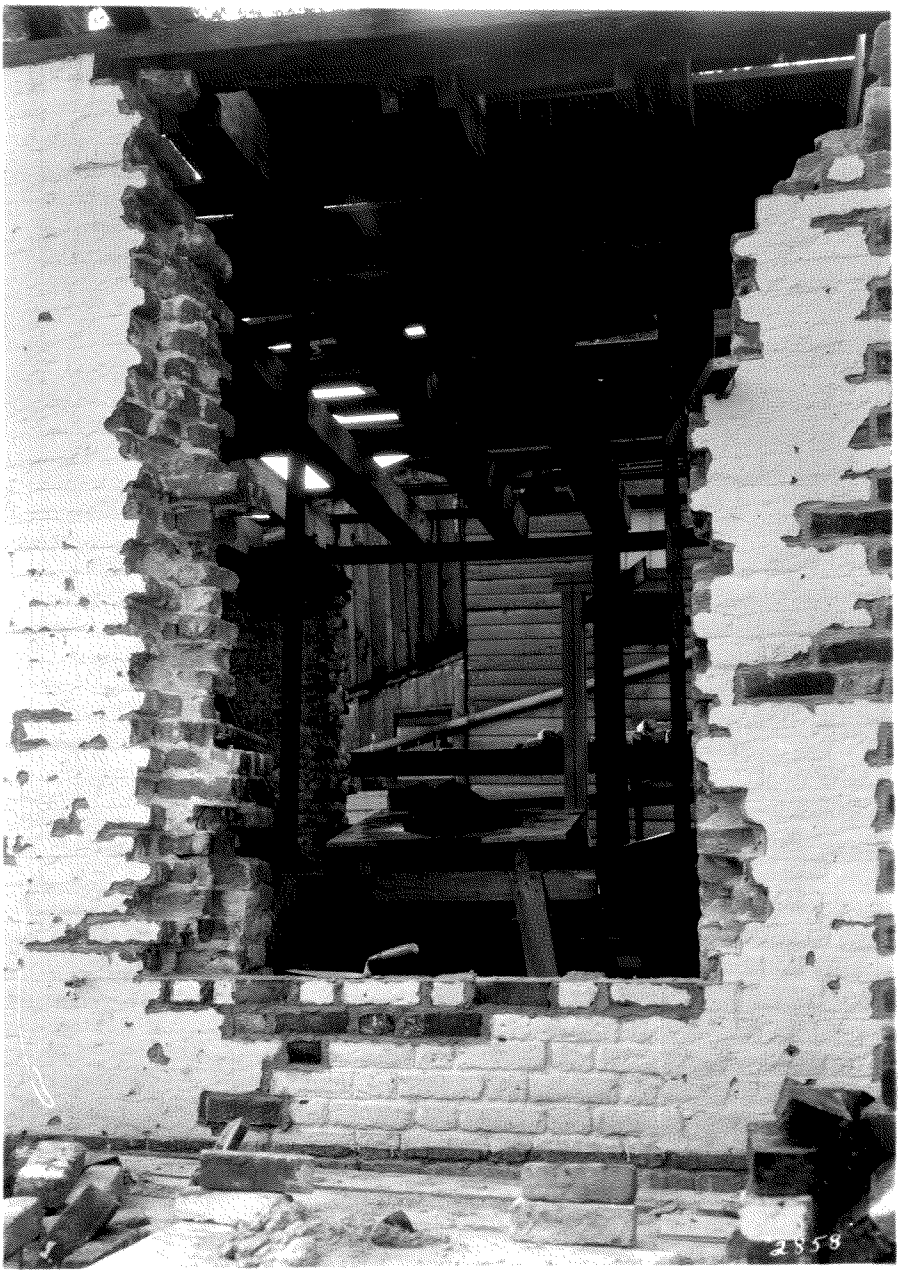
Number 936

"East wall of Rear Wing. Cutting opening for new basement window."



Number 944

"West wall of Rear Wing showing new window grilles in place."



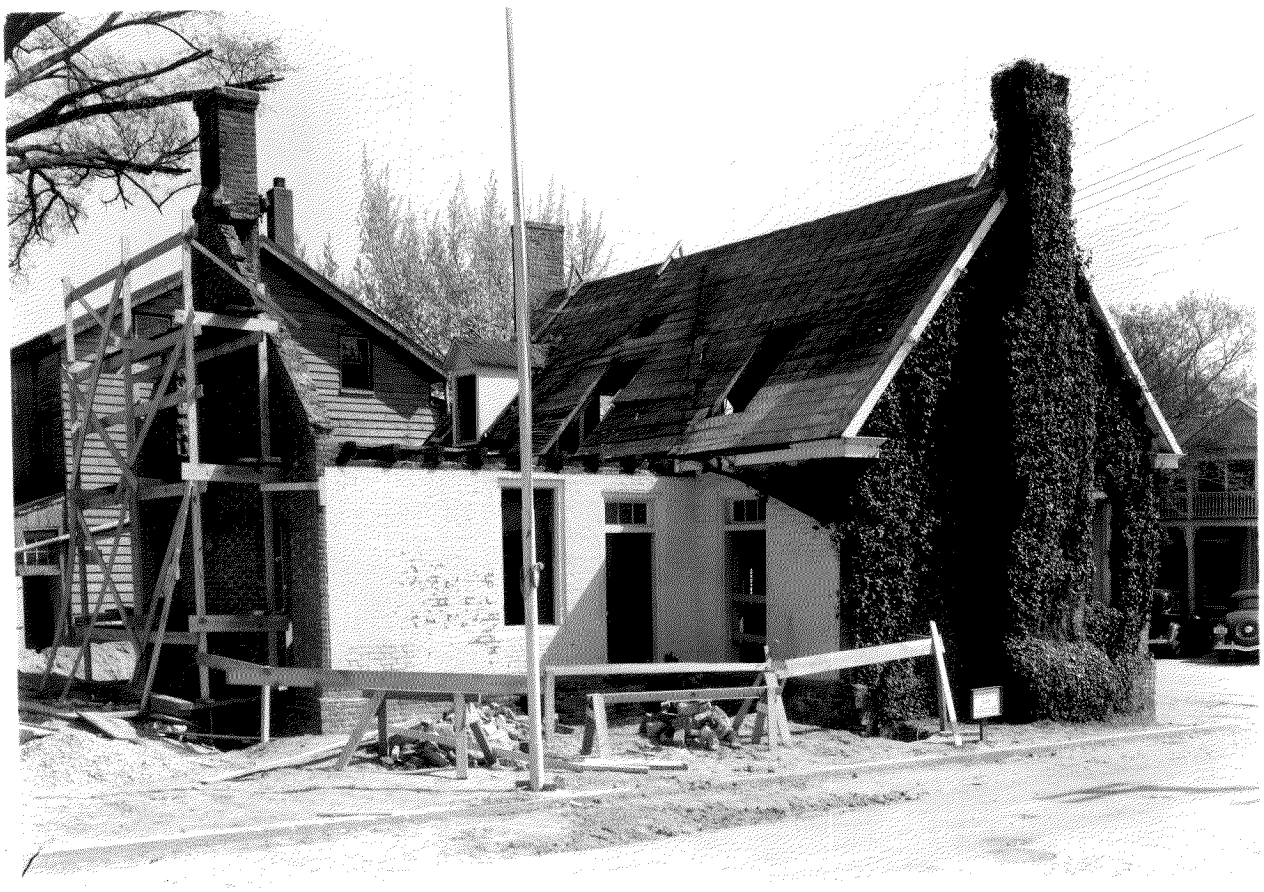
Number 2558

"West wall of rear wing showing original jamb of window (right) and altered jamb (left) to take modern window frame."



Number 3283

"Northwest wall of front wing showing basement window and new first floor door frame in place."



Number 940

"Showing rafters removed from Rear Wing."



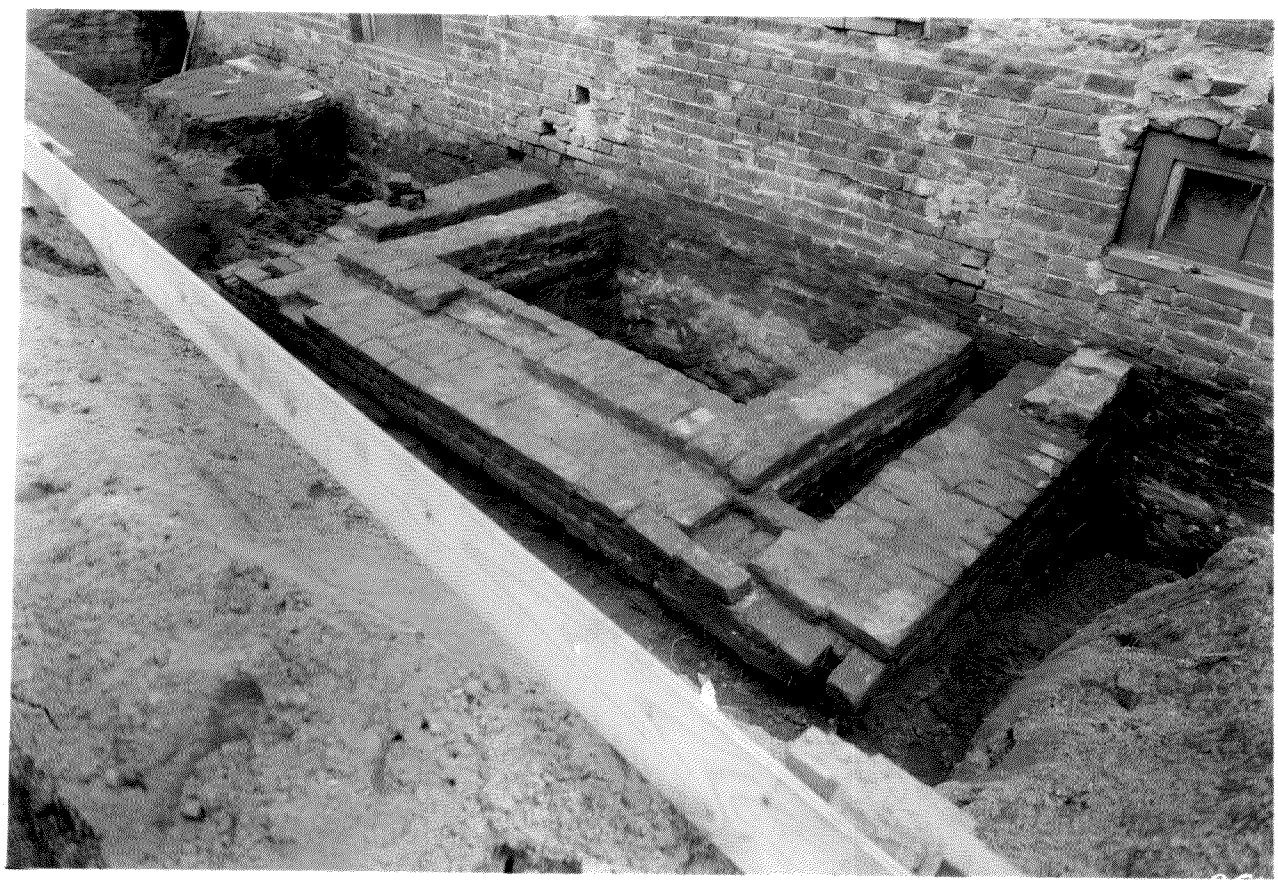
Number 939

"Basement of rear wing showing tile boiler room partition walls."



Number 350

"Fragment of early brick paving and brick foundation for steps at front of building."



Number 951

"Brick foundation for steps and fragment of ancient brick paving (left top) at front of building."

The modern west chimney of the front wing was razed down to its ancient or original base and the basement wall to the south of the chimney was completely rebuilt, removing all of the modern patching from where the modern bulk-head had been bricked up a few years before and repointing all of the original brickwork that had been repaired with oyster shell lime mortar carefully mixed to match the original (See Photo 3019).

From the front wall of the front wing the modern basement windows and patching were removed, the original vent holes built back into the masonry and all brickwork pointed up with oyster shell lime mortar (See Photos 2939, 3023, and 3364). All of the new brick masonry was laid up in a strong cement mortar which was then raked back an inch and pointed with the oyster shell mortar. This method, together with the concrete foundations was intended to prevent any repetition of the settling and cracking that had damaged the old walls to such a great extent in the past.

To jack the original east chimney back into plumb from its settled and leaning condition the mortar patching (that had been applied between it and the east wall of the front wing) was removed (See Photo 4044) and a system of shoring braces was erected that could be thrust against the brick of the chimney by a series of house jacks, forcing the entire chimney back into plumb and supporting it in that position while a concrete foundation was poured under the base, the new concrete work extending down to the same depth as the concrete foundations poured under the basement walls (See Photo 3020). The modern bulkhead and steps to the basement immediately south of the east chimney were removed and the opening bricked up (See Photo 4020).

When the new concrete foundation had set, the modern first floor and basement openings in the wall between the front and rear wings were bricked up (See Photo 4045). After the exterior walls had been put in good structural condition the original first floor window openings were studied and new frames were made up and built into place (See Photos 2948 and 3185, 2945 and 3184).

Both the east and west walls of the front wing were badly settled, cracked and patched above the watertable as well as below. (See Photos 2945 and 4055.) It was necessary to cut out all of the modern patching, jack the settled portions back into plumb and rebuild them into the wall below.

Every fireplace in the building was such a conglomerate of modern patching and weak structural defects that it was necessary to rebuild them all. The chimneys were lined with fire clay flue linings during the rebuilding of the fireplaces and new mantels were made up to authentic colonial details copied from similar mantels in Williamsburg for the front wing and after the Gloucester Glebe for the rear wing mantel. (See Photos 4046, 3218, 3816, 3815, 3817, and 3818). The walls throughout the first floor were strapped with wood strips to take metal lath for plastering.

After the brick walls had been placed in good repair and all of the door and window openings had been brought back to their original conditions, new floor and roof framing was made up to the same sizes and construction details of the original wood framing which was removed wherever it was found to be in



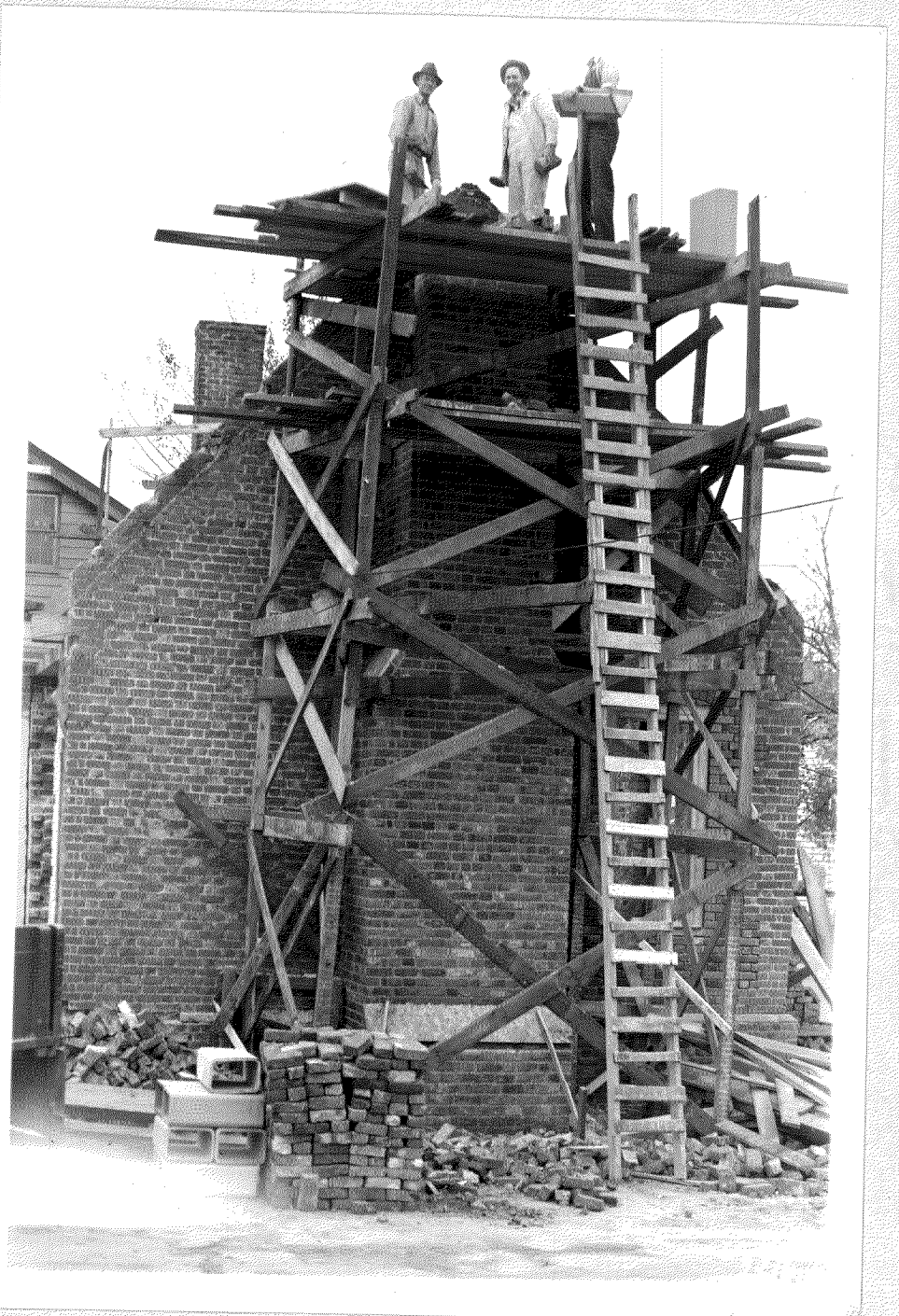
Number 3019

"Ivy removed from west wall of front wing so that brickwork could be repointed showing restoration of basement wall completed up to water table."



Number 2257

"East wall of front wing showing removal of modern chimney."



Number 3216

"West wall of front wing showing rebuilding of west chimney."



Number 3281

"East wall of front wing showing west chimney completed."



Number 2939

"Front wall of front wing showing modern basement windows and extensive patching below the watertable."



Number 3023

"Front wall of front wing showing the left half of the basement wall rebuilt, the modern basement window and patching removed and the original vent built back into the wall."



Number 3354

"Front wall of front wing showing the right half of the basement wall rebuilt, the modern basement window and patching removed and the original vent built back into the wall. The holes below the front door are the original pockets for bonding the masonry of the steps to the wall.



Number 4044

"East chimney of front wing. Showing mortar patching partly removed revealing the extent to which the chimney had settled away from the building."



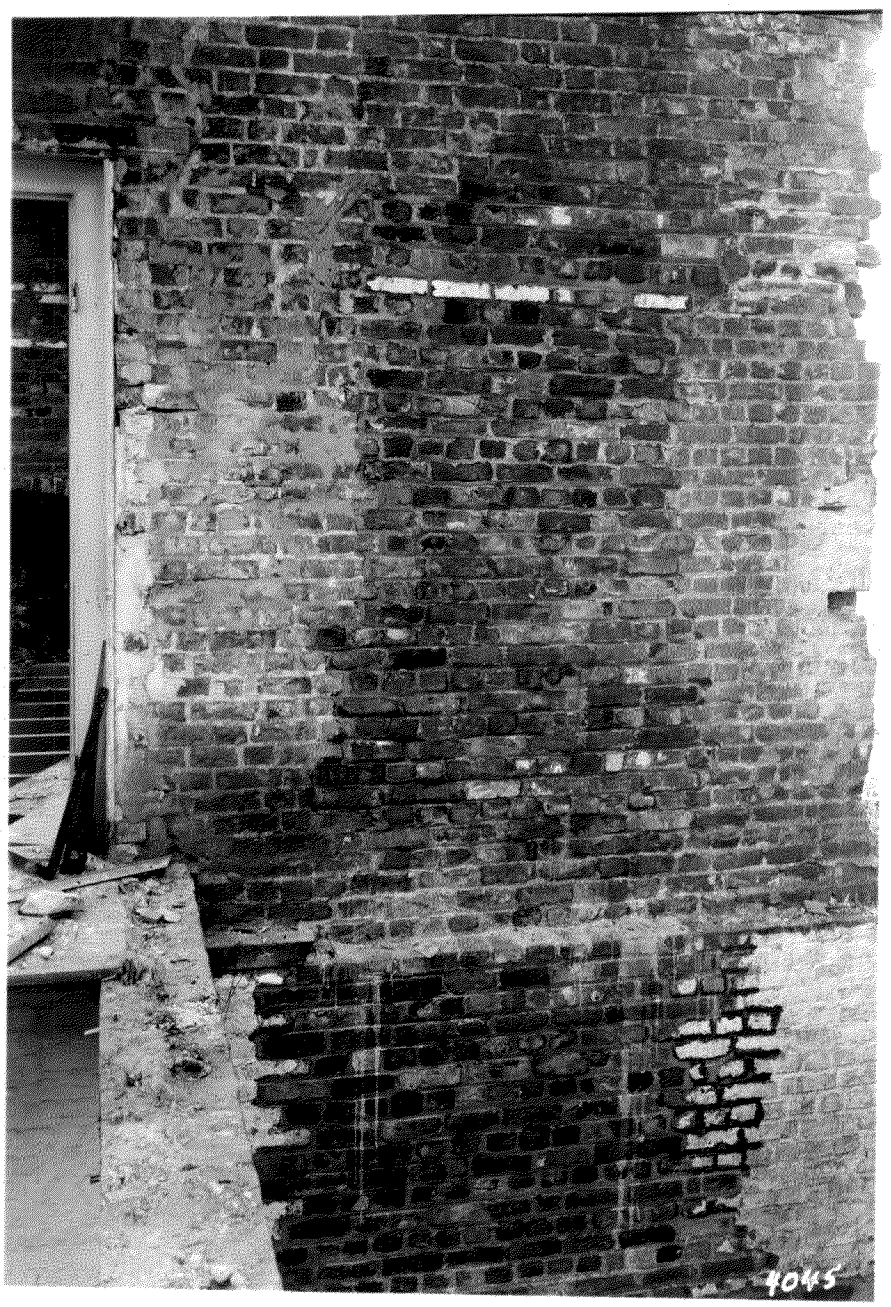
Number 3020

"East chimney of front wing showing shoring braces. The wood board walls conceals the house jacks that forced the chimney back into plumb and held the braces in position."



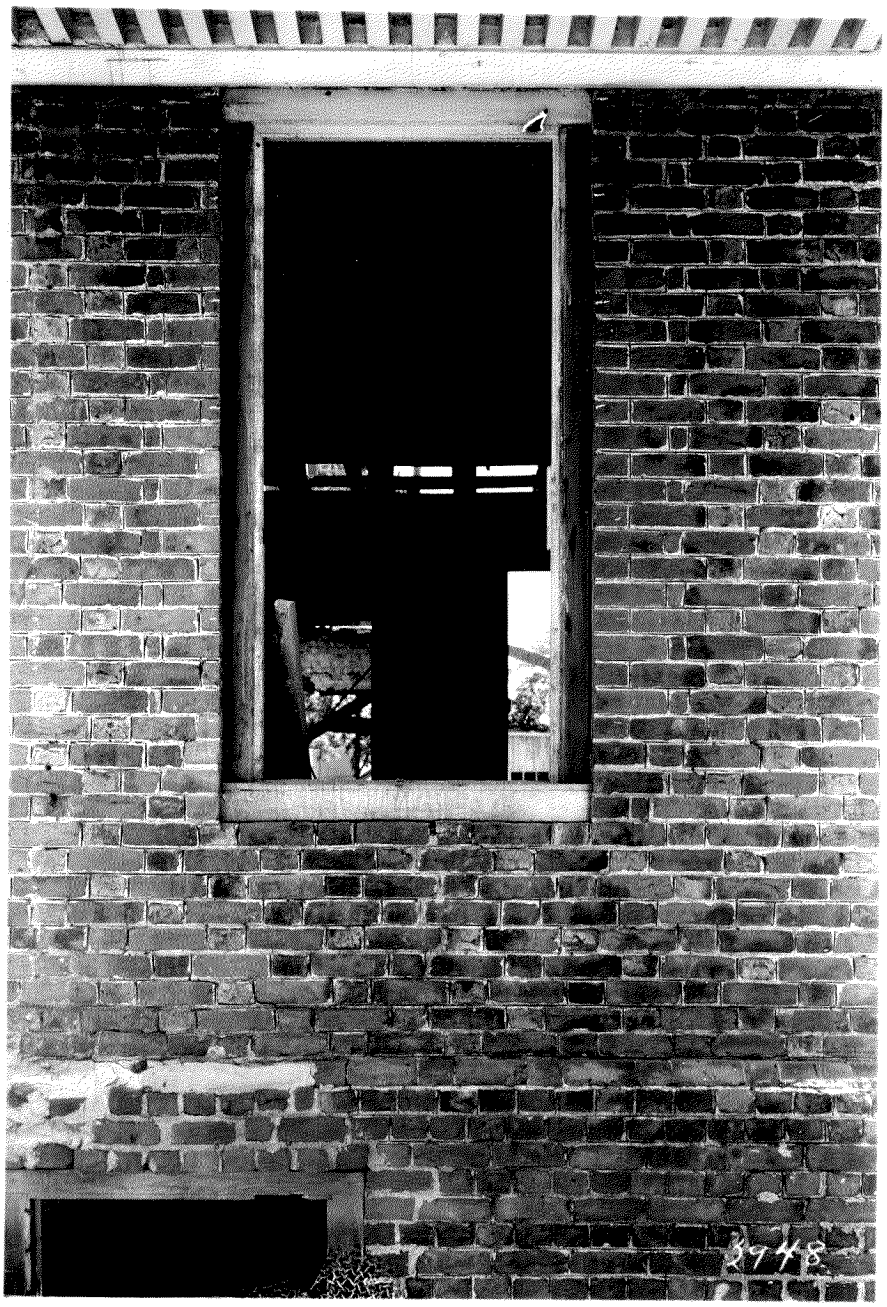
Number 4020

"Bricking up the modern bulkhead immediately south of the east chimney of the front wing."



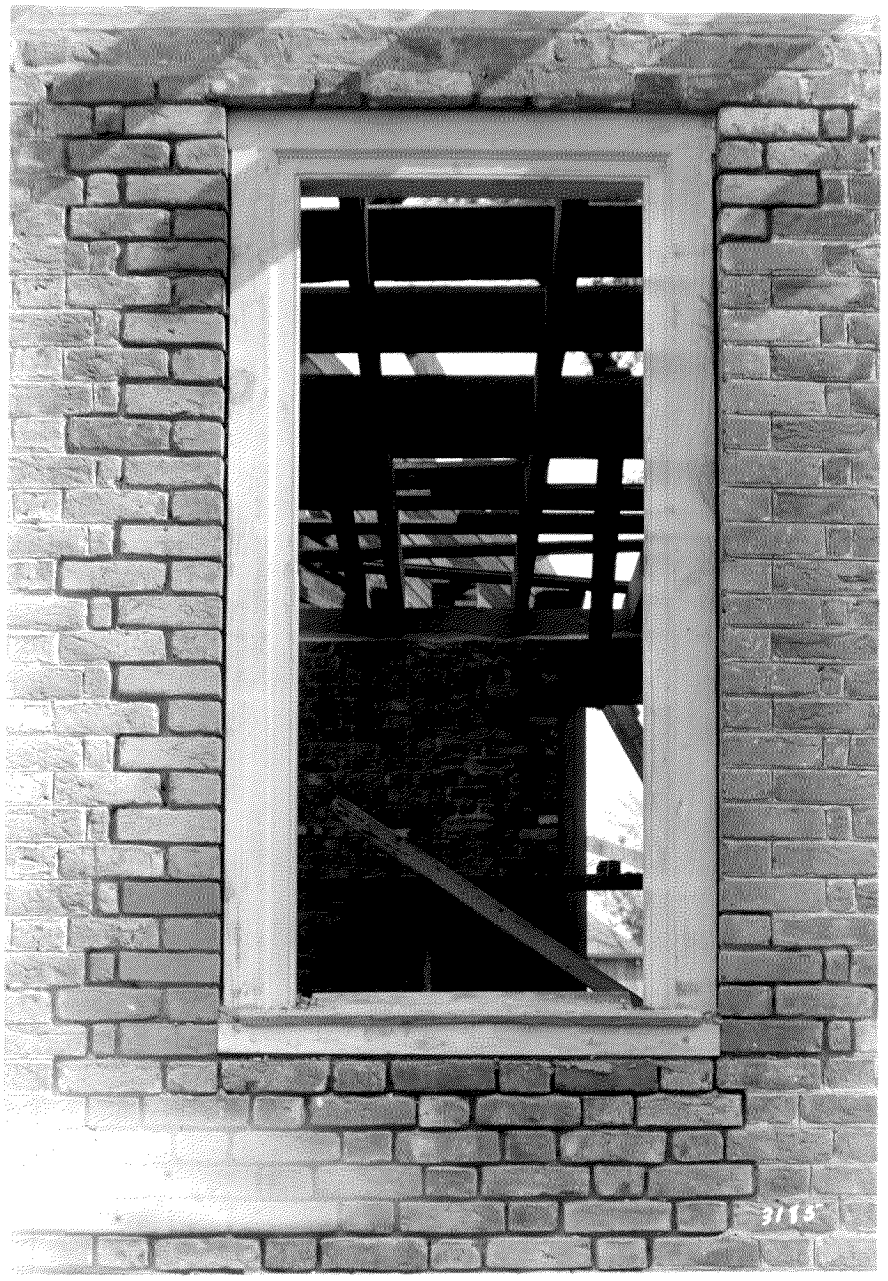
Number 4045

"Showing the modern first floor and basement openings in the wall between the front and rear wings bricked up."



Number 2948

"East window in front wall - modern frame and modern patching and painting of brick work."



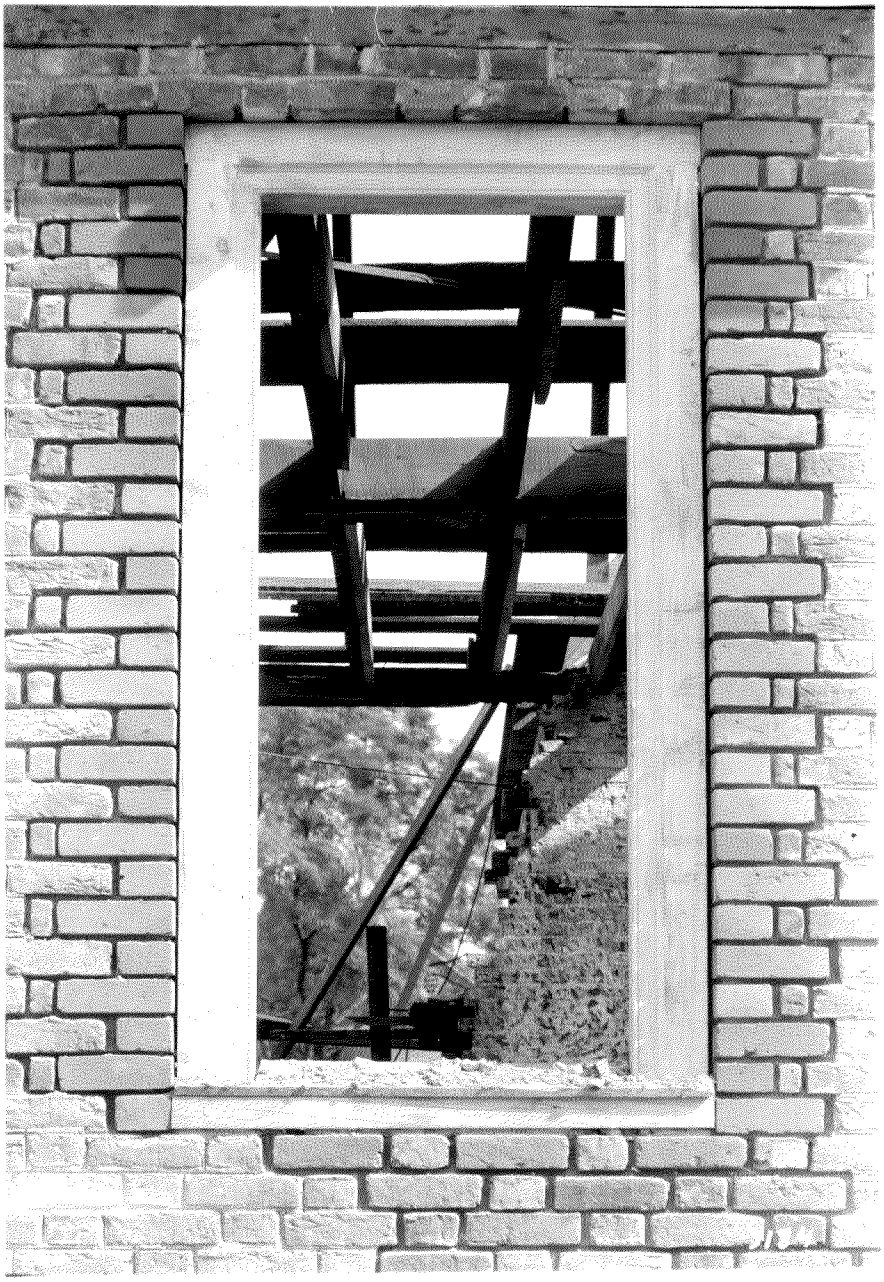
Number 3133

"East window of front wall showing new frame in place, modern brick patching removed and left jamb rebuilt to original condition."



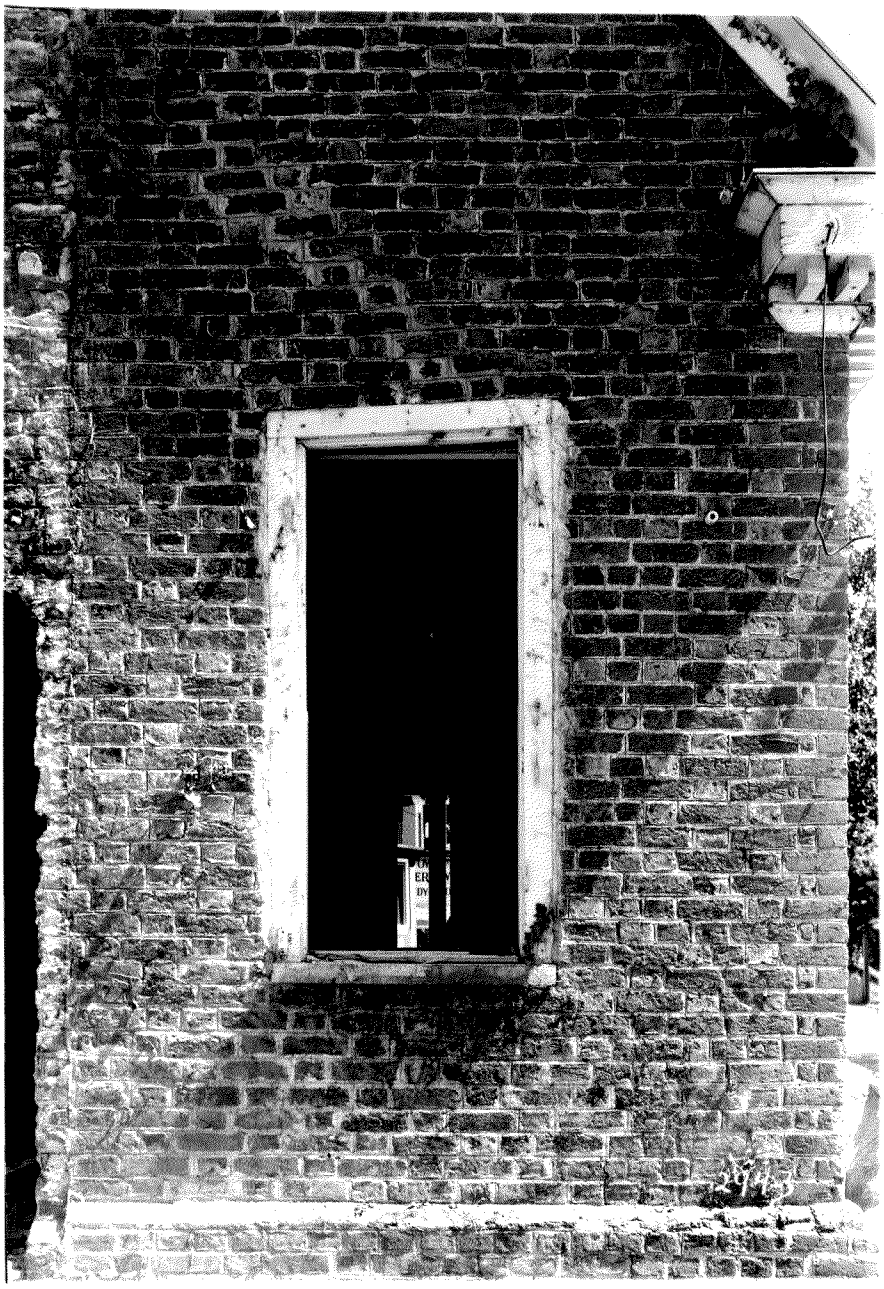
Number 2945

"West window in front wall showing modern frame and modern patching and painting of brick work."



Number 3184

"West window of front wall showing new frame in place, modern brick patching removed and both jambs rebuilt to original condition."



Number 8943

"West wall of Front wing. Modern patching in brickwork along line of settling crack over window before window and wall were rebuilt."



Number 4065

"East wall of front wing showing modern patching along line of wall crack removed, the top section of wall pushed back into line and the crack ready to be filled back solidly into the wall."



Number 4046

"First floor east chimney front wing. Showing modern fireplace removed and breast cut out to allow building in fire clay flue lining."



Number 3218

"First floor east chimney, front wing. Showing new fireplace built up in place."



Number 3816

"First floor east chimney, front wing. Showing new mantel set in place."



Number 3815

"New mantle at first floor west fireplace."



Number 3817

"New mantle at first floor rear wing fireplace."



Number 3818

"New mantle at second floor east fireplace.
Mantle at west fireplace similar."

weak or decayed condition. (See Photos 4082 and 3292). The rear wing roof was reframed immediately upon completion of the east and west rear wing walls supporting the bearing plates (See Photo. 4048). The floors were then reframed and the roof sheathed to protect the new timber work from the weather (see photos. 3220, 3217, and 3291). With the completion of the floor framing new stud partitions were constructed (see photos 3352 and 3353).

When the roof had been sheathed the new dormers were framed and a new modillion cornice was applied under the eave of the front wing with new cornice and boards and new rake boards up the gable. The design of the new cornice was predicated upon actual conditions found in the building, all of which are explained in detail in the writer's following correspondence with Deputy Chief Architect Peterson:

August 12, 1935.

Mr. Clyde F. Trudell,
Assistant Architect,
Office of National Park Service,
426 Duke of Gloucester Street,
Williamsburg, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Trudell:

We have looked over your Full Size Detail of the cornice of the Lightfoot House. As far as we can remember we have never seen a cornice on a brick building that did not have a frieze board below the bed mold. The length of the modillion on your drawing seems unusually great and if a 1-1/8" piece is inserted between the brick and the bed mold, the length of the modillion can be decreased by that much.

On the other hand, you may have some special reason for drawing the detail as you show it. Will you please advise us on this since we want to help you by making an early decision on this matter? The tracing is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Charles E. Peterson

Inclosure 446873

Charles E. Peterson,
Deputy Chief Architect.

August 16, 1935.

Mr. Charles E. Peterson,
Deputy Chief Architect,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Lightfoot House

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Enclosed please find original tracing of Sheet No. 4, H. H. Col. 1166-B, full size cornice details for the Lightfoot House. I have noted your comments on this drawing as set forth in your letter to me of August 12.

In Yorktown the Shield House is the only brick house with a facia board below the bed mold. The Custom House, Digge House, and Nelson House cornices all bear directly on the brick. In Williamsburg the Capitol, Palace, Wren Building, Brafferton Hall, President's House, Powder Horn, Paradise House, Christian (West) House and Marshall house cornices bear directly on the brick whereas the Coke House, Wythe House, and I believe the Peachy House cornices have facia boards. With the exception of the Capitol Clerk's Office Building, which I did not examine and Carter's Grove which is out of the Lightfoot House class this is a fairly complete list of brick houses in this vicinity. I do not include, of course, the new Williamsburg commercial brick buildings because they are modern work. Their design, however, is derived from authentic precedent and none of the new buildings I examined had facia boards.

It was not the fact that the majority of local brick houses did not have facia boards that determined the design of the Lightfoot House cornice, however, but the actual projection of the second floor joists which had to be worked to. So far as we know they are original and determined the projection of the original cornice. The location of the crown molding was automatically determined by the pitch of the roof in relation to the projection of the second floor joists. The bottom of the joists set the depth of the facia board under the crown. The length of the modillions was also determined by the projection of the second floor joists. They are 7/8" longer than those on the Brafferton cornice.

Another reason why no facia was employed under the bed mold was that the bottom of the cornice was determined by the front window openings which we are assuming to be, if not original, earlier than

1781. Using a 9 x 11 light with 6" trim a typical window frame of the period would bring the head exactly to the bottom of the bed molding as indicated on my full size detail. An additional facia board under the bed mold would cut across the window reducing it to an odd size as the sill height is already determined by the existing brick.

I trust the above information to be complete and hope you will make an early decision on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Clyde F. Trudell,

Clyde F. Trudell,
Assistant Architect.

Cold weather set in immediately after this work had been completed early in December of 1935, and due to the heavy snow and extreme cold little work was done for the next two months. (See Photo 0000).

Funds became exhausted again around the first of 1936 and because of this reason work was again stopped by order of Chief Clerk Sorrill and not resumed until the middle of February, 1936.

From December 27, 1935 until January 22, the writer was divorced from the project due to a suspension. During this period work was started on the electrical installation, the work being done under contract by the Stringfellow Electrical Corporation of Newport News, Virginia.

With the advent of Spring, work became active again and sash was fitted and hung in the window frames. A porch was framed at the west wall of the rear wing (See Photo 3595). After another long two month delay while the Park Superintendent made up his mind what type of shingles should be used the roof was shingled with the asbestos shingles recommended and bought by the writer in the first place (See Photo 3814). Correspondence regarding the shingles is given as follows:

"

December 27, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR MESSRS. TRUDELL AND PENDERTON

The composition shingles delivered for use on the Lightfoot House do not meet with the approval of this office. It is felt because the Lightfoot House is an original building, we should not use composition materials thereon. It is felt that either wooden shingles or slate should be used. In view of the fire hazard involved with wooden shingles I am of the opinion that

slate would be most desirable. Accordingly, I have asked Mr. O'Hara to submit prices on slate shingles similar to the ones used on the Digges' House and Buckingham slate. Placing of the present shingles is to be withheld until we have examined the slate shingles.

(Sgd.) B. Floyd Flickinger,
B. Floyd Flickinger,
Superintendent.

January 3, 1936.

Mr. B. Floyd Flickinger, Superintendent,
Colonial National Monument,
Yorktown, Virginia.

Re: Lightfoot House Shingles

Dear Mr. Flickinger:

This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of December 27, stating that the composition shingles intended for use on the above project did not meet the approval of your office. The shingles were obtained after taking bids based upon complete specifications as to composition, size, texture, etc. and under contract signed by you. They were delivered to the job the week of December 13 and shingling was started on December 19 on the rear wing. Had your disapproval been stated at the time bids were taken the shingles would not have been ordered.

To the best of my knowledge the Lightfoot House was never covered with slate. All the available old insurance records note the building as having been "covered with Wood", and a careful examination of the old roofing boards disclosed six or seven different sets of shingle nails and holes spaced for wood shingles and showing that six or seven wood roofs had been applied. A slate roof would still be on to-day. I have done considerable research work in roofing materials in the last six years and have never found any use of Buckingham Slate in the Yorktown vicinity. Several fragments of what appears to be a Welsh slate were found during the Swan Tavern excavations and I believe considerable fragments of a similar slate have been dug up at Jamestown.

Studies were made and experiments carried on at no little expense to develop a fire-proof, wood simulating shingle that would present the color, texture, size, and moss-growth promotion of weathered wood shingles, for the restoration work at Williamsburg and the result of this detailed study was the so-called Mohawk Asbestos Shingle. While several other types of shingling were employed at Williamsburg either based on documentary evidence or a desire to obtain more contrast in roofs by far the majority of the roofs employ the Mohawk Shingle. This product met the approval of a most distinguished group of authorities in Colonial work who comprised an architectural consulting board and served in an advisory capacity to pass on all phases of the design and character of the various restoration projects.

For the past two years it has been impossible to obtain the Mohawk Shingle as the plant had ceased operation. However, quite recently the Keasbey and Mattison Company of Ambler, Pennsylvania placed on the market what they call the "Old Colony" asbestos shingle and it is manufactured in the exact colors and textures and so far as I know of the same material as the Mohawk Shingle.

In endeavoring to obtain a fireproof roof for the Lightfoot House and at the same time closely approximate the original wood shingling the Ambler product seemed a logical choice although, as you say, it is a composition material and not as desirable in appearance as the actual wood. I believe that, due to my interest in this particular problem, I have examined every shingle on the market to-day that claims to represent a wood textured surface and I have not yet seen one that actually looked like wood. The closest they have come have been in the Mohawk and Ambler products and I am confident through past experience that this opinion is widely shared among those interested in colonial restoration work.

I do not like imitations of the real thing myself but in this instance the use of a material to simulate the original wood seems less acroustic than the use of a material such as slate for which there is no basis of support.

I am taking the liberty to forward your memorandum to Mr. Vint with a request for his recommendation in this matter.

Shingling operations shall be held up until a decision is reached.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Clyde F. Trudell,

Clyde F. Trudell,
Assistant Architect.

"

January 6, 1936.

Mr. Thomas C. Vint,
Chief Architect,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Lightfoot House Shingles

Dear Mr. Vint:

This will advise you that the bids were taken on asbestos shingles for the above project on November 18, 1935, and the contract was awarded the Yorktown Ice and Storage Co. for $494.00. The shingles have long since been delivered and, I believe, the full amount of the contract has been paid.

Inasmuch as sheet #2 dwg No. NM Col. 1166-A and sheets nos. 2, 3 and 4 dwg No. NM Col. 1166-B (in all, four different sheets) show the roofing plainly lettered as "Asbestos Shingles" and all of these sheets were signed by Supt. Flickinger as was the contract under which the shingles were ordered, bought and paid for I had no reason to believe they did not meet his approval.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Clyde F. Trudell

Assistant Architect. "

The modern front entrance door frame was removed and a new frame made up and built into place (See Photos. 2946 and 3574). Stone steps were constructed at the front entrance after considerable study had been given to the type of steps or stoop that had originally served the entrance. The following letter to Deputy Chief Architect Peterson explains in complete detail the reasons and existing evidence that prompted the use of stone for the steps:

"

October 1, 1935.

Mr. Charles E. Peterson,
Deputy Chief Architect,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Lightfoot House

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Receipt of your letter regarding the stone steps at the Lightfoot House is hereby acknowledged.

My reasons for detailing the steps of stone are based entirely on the existing evidence.

1. The holes you refer to in the foundation were mortar lined leaving an opening just brick size and no indication of any kind, grain marks, etc. to show that wood nosings had filled them.

2. The holes step two step heights from the floor level indicating that the top platform step was not tied to the wall and must have been of solid masonry construction to span the distance.

3. Before coming back to the stone decision I studied the possibility of brick steps or a porch stoop. The latter supposition was discarded because of the double foundation walls which would have been unnecessary for a stoop. The former, i.e., brick steps with either brick or wood nosings was rejected because the holes in the foundation wall (supposing they took the nosings) would narrow to a top step platform narrower than the door opening itself and the existing step footings did not suggest any type of brick step construction that would support both steps and platform although I tried to work out a system of intersecting brick arches without the least convincing result.

4. The brick wall had been weathered not to the holes mentioned above but to a point several inches outside of them indicating that the outer line of the hole was not the original riser line but had some other construction in front of it.

5. By considering the holes, which were spaced for 1'-0" treads, as brick ties behind the actual steps I hit a solution that almost worked itself out. You will note by my detail that by starting the first step directly from the original grade (which was determined from the piece of existing brick paving) and allowing a 8" bearing for each successive step (a typical stone detail) the existing footing walls lent themselves perfectly to a set of stone steps with a platform carried on a brick arch. The arch support would further explain the absence of the tie holes in the wall at the top step.

The corbeling and arch treatment presented in the detail are all typical brick work details with which an early brick mason would have been familiar. Had the steps been entirely brick they would have required a system of arch support more complicated in the construction than any brickwork in this section.

I have never seen early exterior brick steps with wood nosing, a detail used exclusively - so far as my own observation is concerned on covered bulkhead basement steps.

For physical evidence or precedent in the local use of stone for steps we have the piece of old stone now serving as the Swan Tavern Kitchen doorsteps and the fragment under the porch to Dadd's store both of which examples have moulded nosings.

For documentary evidence that would justify the Lightfoot House as being of sufficient elegance to employ stone for exterior steps we have the written comment of an English visitor who stated after seeing Yorktown about 1760: "You perceive a great air of opulence amongst the citizens who have (some of them) built themselves houses equal in magnificence to many of our superb ones at St. James, as those of Mr. Lightfoot, Nelson, etc....."

The nosing profile indicated on my drawing is copied cold from the stone steps at Westover and is similar to the nosings on stone steps at Mt. Airy, Blandfield, Carter's Grove, and Aptill as well as the two fragments found at Yorktown mentioned above.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Clyde F. Trudell,

Clyde F. Trudell,
Assistant Architect. "

A plumbing and heating contract was let to Charles Taylor of Hampton, Virginia, and work started under this contract in March of 1936. By the end of May all of the heating equipment had been installed except the oil burner; all of the plumbing had been installed except the fixtures and all of the electrical work conduit had been installed but none of the fixtures and the wires had not been pulled.

The writer ended his connection with the project the end of May 1936. At that time none of the plastering had been done, no painting had been done except priming of the mill-work already in place; the hall panelling had not yet been installed; none of the doors had been hung; none of the electric fixtures had been hung and none of the hardware had been applied. The hardware and electric fixtures had been made up to details made by the writer and after being delivered to the job was all turned over to Maintenance Foreman Edgar Dunston.

Progress Photo. 3815 shows the condition of the exterior of the building at the time the writer left Yorktown.



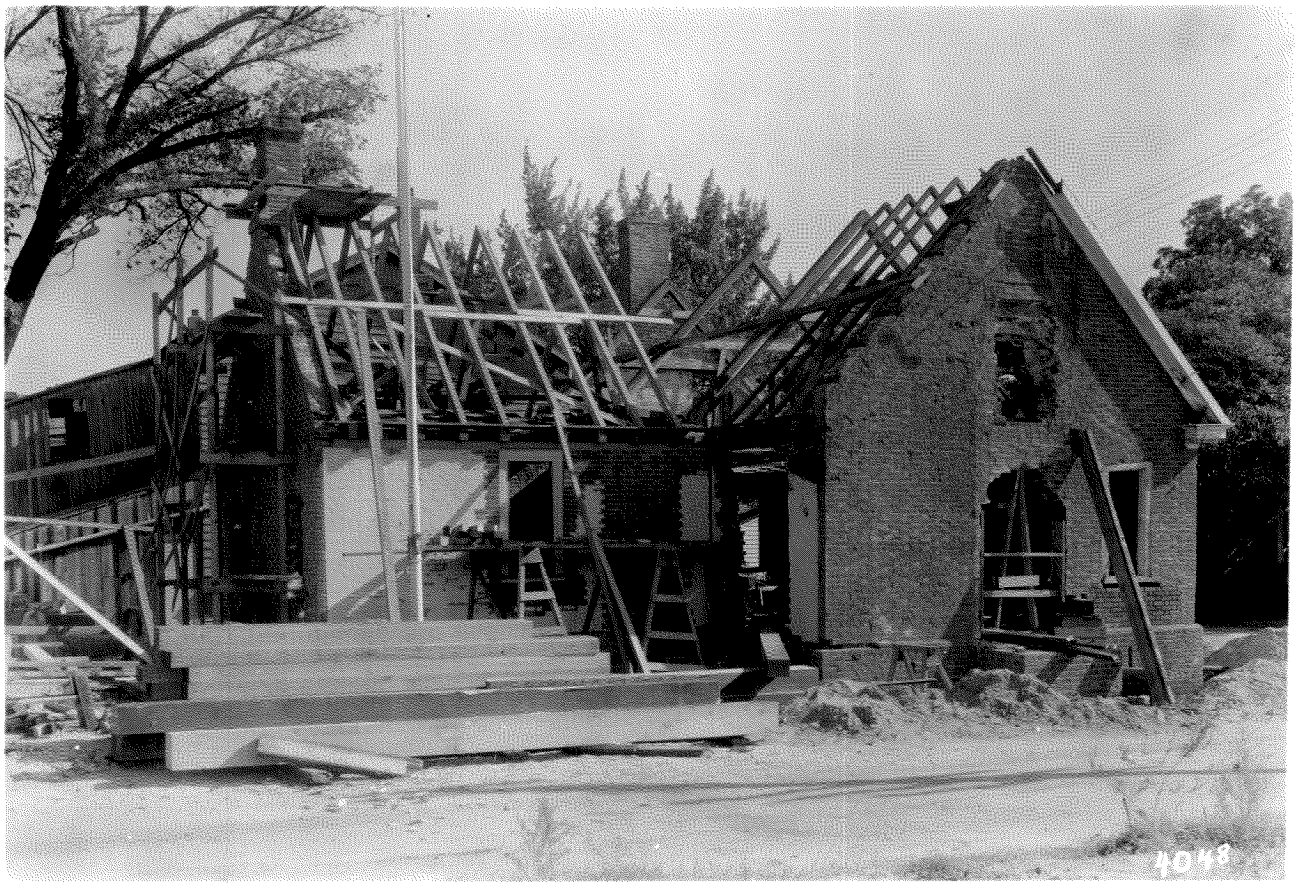
Number 4022

"Front wing showing unsound roof timbers being removed. Note entirely new roof fruming in place on rear wing."



Number 3292

"Front wing showing roof entirely reframed."



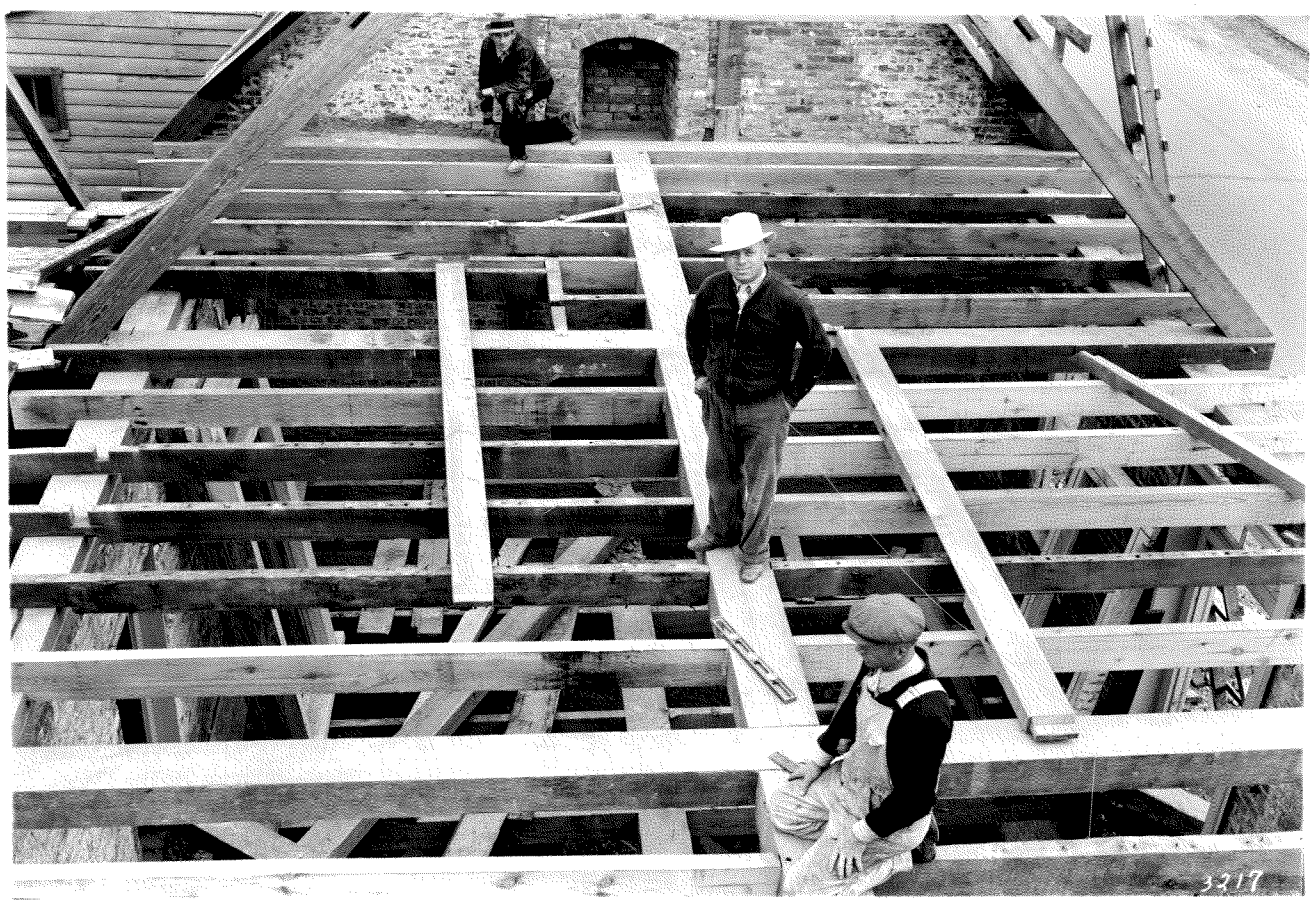
Number 4048

"Rear wing showing new roof framing in place."



Number 3220

"First floor, front wing showing new floor framing in place."



Number 3217

"Second floor, front wing showing new floor framing in place."



Number 3291

"Roof framing completed and sheathing started."



Number 3352

"First floor showing new stud partition constructed for east wall of hall in front wing."



Number 3353

"First floor showing new partition constructed for west wall of hall in front wing."



Number 3813

"View from the Southwest showing condition of the exterior by the end of May 1936."

Addendum

Upon the inception of Emergency Conservation Work on this project the condition of the structure was found as described in the preceding paragraph. Projects were immediately set up and approved on June 4, 1936. Contracts were let for interior trimming and flooring and skilled-labor hired to augment CCC labor which was used throughout the building wherever possible.

Since practically all work in regard to pure restoration had been completed, excellent progress was made in applying wall-board, plaster and woodwork. However, some additional full size details were necessary for the proper construction and fitting of the panel blind windows in the first floor rear room. Plumbing and heating contracts were completed and recommended for acceptance early in September and recommendations made for the interior painting.

This operation brought to the fore difficulties: In that recommendations, on precedent, were made for a color scheme and painting of the various rooms. As operations were begun, contrary recommendations, made by the Superintendent, were introduced recommending an "antiqued finish" for the downstairs rooms. Since possible precedent for this finish was questioned work was delayed until further inspection from the Washington Office could be made. This inspection was made and, although technical advisers questioned greatly the precedent for this finish, the Superintendent's recommendations were followed and the interior finish finally completed by October. (See Photos. 4370-71, 73, 75 and 4512).

Minor operations such as applying hardware, installation of toilet stalls and the basement floors were complete and the building ready for occupancy early in October.

On October 19, while running test fires in the furnace a violent explosion occurred, damaging the furnace, basement walls, basement doors, woodwork and plaster (See Photo. 4400). Investigation of this accident was made by representatives from the Washington and Regional offices and the findings entered in a separate report.

The above mentioned accident required additional delays, however, repairs were made by an Emergency EC# program, a new set of nozzles and smaller fire box introduced into the furnace and an extra window introduced into the boiler room. These repairs were finished late in November and the structure finally occupied on December 14, 1936. Photo No. 5026 shows the completed structure after minor base plantings were made in the spring of 1937.



4400 - LIGHTFOOT HOUSE - BOILER AFTER EXPLOSION
OCTOBER 19, 1936.

Recapitulation of cost

Breakdown of FP-336B is as follows:

Reconditioning of buildings and elimination of fire hazards		$ 684.10
Expenditures for material	429.50	
Expenditures for labor	222.60	
Other expenditures (Salary Stenographer)	32.00	
Total.....	$684.10	

These expenditures were made on brickwork and electric wiring on the houses at the Beer Farm, two houses on Church Street and the residence at the Yorktown Cemetery.

Restoration of Lightfoot House		$23,445.22
Expenditures for material		7,362.32
Expenditures for labor		9,387.78
Other expenditures:		
(a) Blue prints	10.06	
(b) Telegrams	.45	
(c) Miscellaneous	.61	
(d) Salaries - Stenographer	120.00	
Resident Architect	540.00	
	$671.12	671.12
Two contracts:		
(a) Electrical Contract		1,454.00
(b) Heating Contract		4,570.00
		$23,445.22

The restoration of the Lightfoot House was completed from ECW funds after the depletion of the funds from FP 336B.

The expenditures from ECW are as follows (Project 144, ECW 120):

Expenditures from materials	$1,887.23
Expenditures from supervision	368.19
Gas, oil and maintenance	47.26
Skilled labor	876.40
	$3,179.08

Mandays CCC - 388

The total cost of the Lightfoot House restoration then becomes as follows:

Expenditures for FP 336B	$23,445.22
Expenditures for ECW (Project 144, ECW 120)	3,179.08
	$26,624.30

Schedule of Inspectors:

To June 1, 1936 - Assistant Architect Trudell
June 1 to October 1, 1936 - Associate Landscape Architect Wilhelm
October 1 to 15, 1936 - Associate Landscape Architect Wilhelm

During the period June 1 to October 1, 1936, Assistant Architect Parris then assigned to the Williamsburg office assisted the writer and acted as adviser on all architect problems and particularly on this project.

Completion date - October 15, 1936. Repairs of damage from the explosion of the furnace were made after this date.

5. OUTBUILDINGS

The only documentary evidence placed at the disposal of the writer pertaining to the former existence of outbuildings on the rear portion of the Lightfoot House lot was as follows:

1. An insurance map dated April 22, 1817.
This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $1300); a one story frame store, 28' x 44', occurring at the southeast corner of the lot (valued at $600); a dairy occurring directly behind the Lightfoot House (no description, dimensions or value given); a one story frame kitchen, 18' x 24', occurring directly north of the dairy (valued at $150); a smokehouse occurring directly east of the kitchen (no description, dimensions or value given); a one story stable 16' x 16' occurring in the northwest corner of the lot (valued at $100).

2. An insurance map dated April 7, 1823.
This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $2000). Porches are indicated on both the east and west sides of the rear wing. This is the earliest and only known documentary evidence of either of these spaces having been covered. This map also shows a store "of wood entire" 40' x 24' occurring at the southeast corner of the lot (valued at $800); a kitchen"of wood entire" 24' x 18' occurring directly north of the Lightfoot House (valued at $100); a stable "of wood entire" 16' x 18' occurring at the northwest corner of the lot. Neither the dairy or smokehouse appear on this map but they appear again on four later insurance maps.

3. An insurance map dated April 19, 1850.
This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $2500); a store "of wood entire" 44' x 25' occurring at the southeast corner of the lot (valued at $400); a dairy "of wood" occurring directly behind the Lightfoot House (no dimensions given but noted as being "of small value"); a kitchen "of wood" 18' x 24' occurring directly

north of the dairy (valued at $75); a "wood" smokehouse occurring due northeast of the kitchen (no dimensions or value given); a "wood stable" occurring at the northwest corner of the lot (no dimensions given but noted as being "of small value".)

4. An insurance map dated October 16, 1838.

This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $2000); a two story frame store 44' x 25' occurring at the southeast corner of the lot (valued at $500); a "wood" dairy 12' x 12' occurring directly behind the Lightfoot House (valued "under $100"); a kitchen "of wood" 18' x 24' occurring directly north of the dairy (valued "under $100"); a smokehouse "of wood" 10' x 10' occurring directly east of the kitchen (valued "under $100"); a stable "of wood" 16' x 16' occurring at the northwest corner of the lot (valued "under $100").

5. An insurance map dated August 10, 1846.

This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $1600); a "one and a half stories high" store of "wood entire" (valued as a "store and dwelling" at $675); the dairy, kitchen, smokehouse and stable are indicated in outline in approximately the same locations as those of the previously described maps and are noted by name but no dimensions or values are given for these outbuildings.

6. An insurance map dated September 16, 1853.

This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $2100); a "store and dwelling one and one half stories high" (no dimensions given but valued at $900) occurring at the southeast corner of the lot; a "wood dairy" occurring directly behind the Lightfoot House (no dimensions given but valued at "under $100"); a "wood kitchen one and one half stories high" 22' x 24' located directly north of the dairy; a "wood" smokehouse occurring directly east of the kitchen (valued "under $100"); a "wood" stable 16' x 16' occurring at the northwest corner of the lot (no value given).

7. An insurance map dated December 31, 1860.

This map shows the plotted outlines of the Lightfoot House (valued at $1500); a "store and dwelling" one and one half stories high 22' x 24' (valued at $800); a kitchen one and one half stories (valued at $200). None of the other outbuildings are shown or mentioned.

References were made in various wills and inventories obtained from the York County Clerk's office to stables and the inventory of the estate of Peyton Southall (1815) lists articles from the "dairy" and kitchen. It is quite probable that the earliest stables on the lot were situated on the eastern half and were much larger than the 16' x 16' structure first noted in the insurance record of 1817 because the stock, carriages, carts, etc. mentioned in early inventories of the estate could never have been accommodated in such a small building.

There are no known references to help's quarters although all of the early proprietors of the Lightfoot House were slave owners, the inventory of Peyton Southall listing twelve slaves as part of his Yorktown estate. The kitchen building could very well have housed the house servants but there must have been other cabins or structures for the stable and yard hands.

Using the available insurance data as source material the rear of the Lightfoot lot was investigated by excavations starting July 8, 1935. The method used was that of Mr. Prentice Duell, one of the most prominent American archeologists. After but four days of exploratory endeavors the chimney of the kitchen (or a chimney #2860 - #2859 that was found at the site supposedly occupied by the former kitchen building) was discovered and uncovered, also during these same four days the foundation of the smokehouse was located and uncovered (No. 2851 - No. 2854) and the site of the stable (No. 2849) was located and cleared revealing the brick rubble floor. Evidences of the stable yard were clearly discernable in trenching revealing the soil strata. On July 12, the digging crew was ordered from the lot by Superintendent Flickinger. As the crew had been under the direct technical supervision of the writer the following letter was immediately addressed to Superintendent Flickinger but was neither acknowledged by him or answered:

" "

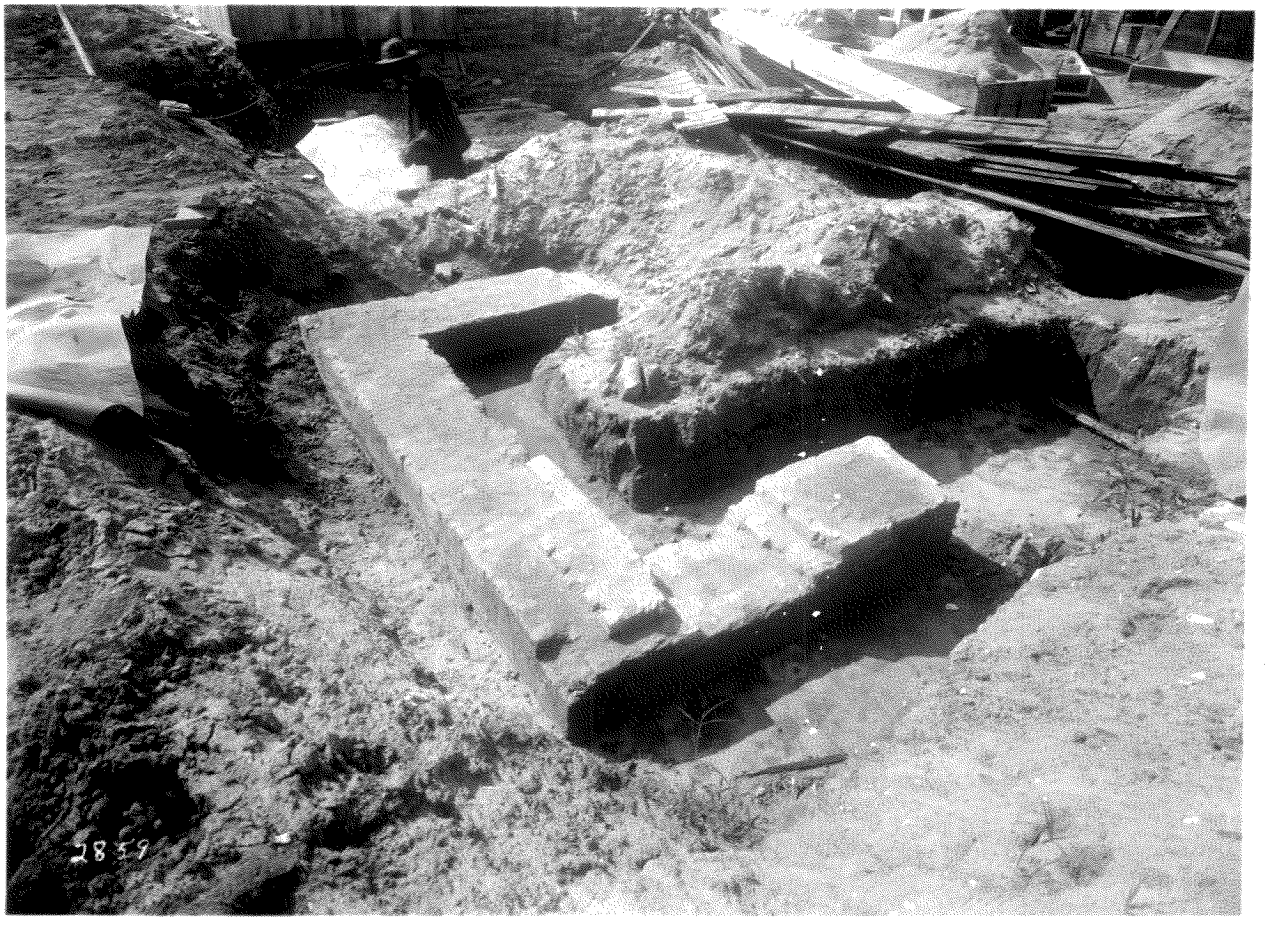
July 12, 1935.

Mr. E. Floyd Flickinger, Superintendent,
Colonial National Monument,
Yorktown, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Flickinger:

According to Camp Superintendent Booth, the excavating crew engaged on exploring the rear of the Lightfoot House lot was taken off this project in compliance with your instructions.

To date excellent progress has been made during the one week the crew has been digging. Under the foremanship of Mr. Evans with Mr. Gene DeGilets (generously loaned by Camp Superintendent Woodward) measuring and recording the uncovered foundations, aided by Mr. Booth's wholehearted support and supervised by myself as technician in charge two of the four original outbuilding foundations have already been discovered, the fill occupying the site of the original stable investigated and the location and extent of the yard noted and determined fairly approximately.



Number 2859

"Chimney foundation at site of kitchen looking east."



Number 2860

"Chimney foundation at site of kitchen."



Number 2854

"Smokehouse foundation looking southeast."



Number 2851

"Smokehouse foundation looking north showing what appears to have been a door step at the southeast corner and a layer of cinders 10" wide and 12" deep that occurred entirely around the inside of the walls."



Number 2849

"Stable site showing portion of brick rubble floor."

You will recall that at the last meeting of the staff and technical advisers (April 25, I believe, although it was so long ago I may be in error as to the date), Mr. Winter announced during a conversation in which both you and I took part that his archaeological force was very much employed at Jamestown and it was satisfactory to him that I handle the archeological work at Yorktown and, unless I am mistaken, at the Moore House.

I am, naturally, curious to know why work on one of my projects should again be stopped by your order without any notice thereof having been given me except the announcement by the Camp Superintendent that his men had been ordered off the lot.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Clyde F. Trudell,

Clyde F. Trudell,
Assistant Architect.

On July 16, 1935, a Mr. Day appeared upon the Lightfoot lot and started digging with the same crew formerly engaged upon the same project. The writer introduced himself and offered his services for whatever value they might be to the work at the same time offering to place at the disposal of Mr. Day all documentary information pertaining to the Lightfoot House and lot. These offers were curtly refused as being of no value to a trained archeologist.

By July 20, 1935, the digging crew had completely destroyed all of the strata evidences of old grades that had been revealed by the original trenching. Inasmuch as the purpose of the excavations was to obtain information upon which might be predicated design of the outbuildings for restoration or reconstruction and as this function had always normally been within the province of the Branch of Plans and Design the writer protested the destruction of so much tangible evidence in a letter addressed to the Deputy Chief Architect. This letter, dated July 20, 1935 was neither answered or acknowledged.

After two weeks of activity the efforts of the crew under Mr. Day were terminated on August 3, 1935. Six months later, January 16, 1936, Mr. Day prepared a "preliminary report on excavations behind the Lightfoot House". No conclusions worthy of the name were recorded nor was any additional information discovered other than the foundations already found by the crew under the supervision of the writer during the first four days of the enterprise. However, all of the evidence of early grades and soil conditions disclosed by the writer's preliminary trenching was completely destroyed during the last two weeks of the digging operations due to the "approved" methods of excavating described by Mr. Day in his report as a

process by which "..the earth between the trenches was removed to undisturbed soil..."

In the best interest of the work it is earnestly hoped that when archeological study of the outbuilding foundations is resumed someone with experience, understanding and an active interest in the task be engaged to direct the work.

Addendum

Early in June of 1936 archeological investigation of the rear lot of this project was again begun under the able supervision of Russell Smith, Junior Architect then attached to the Jamestown Island staff. Under this supervision the lot was re-excavated on the plan then in vogue for Jamestown Island and a systematic record maintained and placed on HABS sheets which were forwarded for filing in the Washington office in July 1936. (See Photo No. 3910).

From these sheets and insurance records hitherto referred to, plans for the development of the outbuildings and rear lot were prepared in the Washington Office. Comments on these plans by Russell T. Smith, Jr. Architect, Clyde F. Trudell, Associate Architect, Fred P. Parris, Assistant Architect, and the writer were made and forwarded in September of 1936. To date no further action has been taken on this area except verbal conferences which indicate that the development of the outbuildings is an ideal project for consideration in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Clyde F. Trudell

Clyde F. Trudell,
Associate Architect.

Addendum by R. A. Wilhelm

R. A. Wilhelm,
Associate Landscape Architect.

CFT:RAW:ls



8910 - DETAIL OF BRICKS IN DAIRY FOUNDATION.
ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, LIGHTFOOT HOUSE.

Lightfoot House Dependencies -
By: Edward M. Riley
August 1938

Property of
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office

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Lightfoot House Dependencies

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA

August 8, 1938

Colonial N. H. P.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Reference is made to the letter of the Regional Director of July 2, 1938, transmitting the technical review by the Acting Regional Historian of "drawing NHP-COL-1166-C-1-1 and 2-2, Location of the Dependencies to the Lightfoot House and Suggested Reconstruction of the Dependencies to the Lightfoot House,..." A search has been conducted by the Historical Division to find additional information on the dependencies of the Lightfoot House, but very little pertinent information can be found in the records available to this office.

The lack of detailed information on the construction of the outbuildings is to be expected, as it is extremely unlikely that plans were ever drawn or detailed descriptions ever made of buildings of such small value and importance. The information included in this memorandum has been placed under the following headings:

I - The York County Records
II - The Fire Insurance Records of the Nineteenth Century
III - A Contemporary Description
IV - The Archeological Reports and Drawings.

Under the last heading, it should be mentioned that at the time of the excavation there was a misunderstanding as to whether the Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings or the Branch of Plans and Design should conduct the archeological investigation. Due to this fact, the records of the archeological work suffered. The work was begun by Assistant Architect Trudell, continued by Assistant Archeologist Day, and later continued by Junior Architect Russell Smith. Mr. Trudell included a statement about his excavation in his "Report on the Restoration of the Lightfoot House" of November 23, 1937; Mr. Day prepared a report on January 16, 1936, which is included in this memorandum; Mr. Smith's report, it is thought, was sent directly to the Washington Office and, as copies were not sent to this office, they cannot be included in this memorandum.

I. THE YORK COUNTY RECORDS

A. Chain of title to Lot known as Lot No. 56 according to Plat of 1691, a survey made by Colonel Lawrence Smith.

Lot 56 is bounded on the north by Lot 55 (the Church Lot), on

the east by Lot 42, on the south by Main Street and on the west by Church Street. In 1691 this lot was taken up by William Digges, but he forfeited his right to it.[1]

In 1699 it was again taken up and forfeited, this time by Robert Leightenhouse.[2]

In 1707, Elizabeth Powers took up the lot and by building upon it got a clear title and probably received a deed to it, although that deed does not appear to be of record. The facts appear from a later conveyance.[3]

Sometime between the years 1707 and 1716 Elizabeth Powers died intestate and the lot descended to Joseph Mountfort as her sole heir at law.[4]

By deed bearing date June 28, 1716, and recorded August 20, 1716, Joseph Mountfort conveyed the lot to Philip Lightfoot. In this deed he traced the prior conveyances.[5]

By deed bearing date October 1, 1783, and recorded October 20, 1783, Philip Lightfoot and Mary Walner, his wife, conveyed the lot to John Moss.[6]

By deed bearing date January 21, 1798, and recorded October 15, 1798, John Moss of Richmond and Sarah, his wife, conveyed the lot to John Moss of York County.[7]

NOTE: This conveyance only passed title to a store and the eastern half of the lot.

By deed bearing date July 26, 1804 and recorded February 18, 1805, John Moss of Richmond and Sarah, his wife, conveyed the remaining part (the western half) of the lot to Peyton Southall.[8]

At this point there is a gap in the chair of title which the York County Records do not bridge.

[1] Deeds, Orders and Wills, I, 368

[2] Deeds and Bonds, I, 216

[3] Deeds and Bonds, III, 130

[4] Ibid., 130

[5] Ibid., 130

[6] Deeds and Bonds, VI, 181

[7] Deed Book, VII, 275

[8] Ibid., 470

By deed bearing date August 18, 1812, and recorded September 21, 1812, William H. Salter and Dorothy, his wife, conveyed that part of the lot known as Moss's Store to Archibald Campbell.[9] This appears to be the part of the lot conveyed January 21, 1798 to John Moss of York County (the eastern half of the lot).

By deed bearing date December 21, 1812 and recorded February 15, 1813, Archibald B. Campbell and Mary, his wife, conveyed that part of the lot known as Moss's Store to Helen M. Southall, administratrix of the estate of Peyton Southall, deceased.[10] The last record of the western half of the lot showed it in the hands of Peyton Southall and the next conveyance appears to pass title to the entire lot. Evidently Southall never sold the western section of the lot during his lifetime and the two sections came together in the hands of his administratrix.

By deed bearing date March 21, 1866, and recorded March 25, 1866, Helen M. Anderson, previously Helen M. Southall, conveyed the entire lot to Valentine Baker.[11]

By deed bearing date March 31, 1868, and recorded April 13, 1868, Valentine Baker and Agnes, his wife, conveyed the entire lot to William D. Shurtz.[12]

By deed bearing date December 18, 1885, and recorded December 23, 1885, William D. Shurtz and Maria R., his wife, conveyed the west end of the lot (48x165 feet) to Columbus V. Eunich.[13] This included, apparently, the Lightfoot House and nothing else.

By deed bearing date March 11, 1891, and recorded March 13, 1891, Columbus V. Eunich and Anna E. S., his wife, conveyed the above described section of the lot to John G. Cooke.[14]

[9] Deed Book, VIII, 208
[10] Ibid., 217
[11] Deed Book XVI, 618
[12] Deed Book, XVII, 136
[13] Deed Book, XX, 595
[14] Deed Book, XXII, 165

From this point the conveyances are not clear, and a brief record of the chain of title, such as the present, would be of little or no value. One point, however, should be stressed: the lot was divided in 1796 when John Moss of Richmond deeded the eastern half of the lot to John Moss of York County. Six years later the western half of the lot, occupied by the Lightfoot House, was conveyed to Peyton Southall. In 1812 the two halves were again joined. However, in 1885, the lot was again divided by the sale of the western half by William D. Shurtz and Maria R., his wife to Columbus V. Eunich. From that time to the present, the lot has been divided. The Government owns merely the western half of Lot 36. This point should be remembered when descriptions of the estates of owners of the entire lot show large quantities of goods. For example, it is altogether logical to assume that the slave quarters might have been placed on the eastern half of the lot away from the main house.

B. Extracts of Pertinent Material from the County Records.

1. The deed conveying Lot 36 from Joseph Mountfort to Philip Lightfoot bearing date June 28, 1716 reads: "All that Lott or half acre of land in Yorke Towne ten poles in length and eight poles in breadth bounded Easterly by the Lott of Col. Digges, Northerly by ye land whereon ye church now standeth, Westerly by a Street opposite to land of Edward Powers and Southerly by Main Street opposite to land of Edward Powers Together with all and singular ye Huses, Edifices buildings, barnes, Stables, Gardens, Orchard and all other ye Profits, Privileges, comoditys and appurtenances, thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining...."[15]

2. The deed bearing date October 1, 1783 of Philip Lightfoot, Esq., and Mary Walner, his wife, conveying Lot 36 to John Moss states: "All that Lot of Land lying in the Town of York and known by the Number or Figures as appears in the plan of the said Town and bounded on the Northeast by the Church Walls, on the Southeast by a lot of Col. Digges, on the Southwest by the Main Street and on the Northwest by a cross street, and all Houses buildings yards gardens woods ways waters profits commodities hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the same...."[16]

3. In the will of Philip Lightfoot bearing date July 31, 1747 is the following: devises to wife (name not given) during her natural life "My dwelling House with the appurtenances two Lots and one third of Land thereto adjoining purchased from Richard Cary, John Bckler and Herriot Ratchford and the Lots whereon my Stable now stands in the Town of York together with..." [articles of personal property set out].

[15] Deeds and Bonds, III, 150

[16] Wills and Inventories, XX, 107 Deed Book, VI, 181

"I give and devise unto my son William Lightfoot and his Heirs forever the Lot and appurtenances whereon he now dwells in York Town and those two adjoining (except the Stable and Lotts to his Mother during her natural Life) four Lotts bought of Gwin Reade the Storehouse and Lott bought of Joseph Mountfort the Warehouses under the bank together with the Mill and Land thereto adjoining...."[17]

4. The inventory and appraisement of the estate of Peyton Southall dated February 13, 1813, and recorded on February 15, 1813, lists the articles in the dairy and kitchen. In addition it lists twelve negro slaves, three horses, two cows, one carriage and harness, one cart, one saddle and bridle.[18]

While it may be stated that the list of the buildings, gardens, etc., is merely legal phraseology, it seems unlikely that buildings would be mentioned if they were not standing. The wide variance in the descriptions of property in the York County Records would also substantiate this. It must also be remembered that the above-mentioned gentlemen owned the entire lot and probably had extensive buildings on the eastern half. It appears, for example, that Mr. Southall had a large stable on the eastern half of the lot, much larger than the 16'x 16' structure shown on the Insurance Records. It would be impossible to get three horses, two cows, one carriage and harness, one cart, and a saddle in such a small building.

Another point is brought out by the study of the insurancerecords, and that is that the owners of this property were persons of some means. The personal property of Peyton Southall shows a man of some taste and includes many things of great value. All of the owners of the property appear to have been slave holders. The inventory of the estate of Elizabeth Powers, dated September 15, 1733, and recorded September 17, 1733, lists twelve slaves.[19] In addition, this inventory lists three cart horses, with a cart and harness for each horse, two cows and three hogs.

[17] Wills and Inventories, XX, 105

[18] Mill Book, X, 67-70

[19] Wills and Inventories, XVIII, 70

II. RECORDS OF THE MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

A. Record dated April 22, 1817.
Helen, widow of Peyton Southall, married Robert Anderson of Williamsburg. The Lightfoot House was rented to Matthew Wills.

1. Dwelling House (A on accompanying map) of brick covered with wood; one story, 39 x 42 feet. Cost to build - $2,000.00. Actual value, $1,300.00.

2. Dairy is shown directly behind the house. No dimensions given, or value.

3. Kitchen (C) of wood covered with wood; one story; 18 x 24 feet. Cost to build - $300. Actual value - $150.00. A note on the map: "The building marked A. is within thirty feet of an entire wooden building. The building marked C. is within thirty feet of one building of Brick, covered with wood."

4. Smokehouse at southeastern corner of the kitchen. No dimensions nor value given.

5. Stable (D) of wood covered with wood; one story; 16 x 16 feet. Cost to build - $150.00; actual value - $100.00.

B. Record dated April 7, 1825.
Robert Anderson of Williamsburg. House occupied by Richard G. Banks and Baker P. Lee.

1. Dwelling (A) of brick covered with wood; one story; 40 x 56 feet. Cost to build - $3,000.00. Actual value - $2,000.00. (Porches shown on each side of the rear wing.)

2. No dairy shown.

3. Kitchen (C) of wood "entire"; 24 x 18 feet. Cost - $300.00. Value - $100.00.

4. No smokehouse shown.

5. Stable (D) of wood "entire"; 16 x 18 feet. Cost - $100.00. Value - $50.00.

C. Record dated April 19, 1830.
Robert Anderson. House occupied by "servant of my family

only."

1. Dwelling (A). "of Brick and covered with Wood - one story high 39 x 23 the main and 20 by 22 the end." Cost - $3,000.00. Value $2,500.

2. Dairy shown in same location, but no dimensions or value given.

3. Kitchen (C) of wood; 18 x 24 feet. Cost - $200.00. Value - $75.00.

4. Smokehouse of wood at northeast corner of kitchen. No dimensions or value given.

5. Stable of wood in northwest corner of lot. No dimensions or value given. Note on map: "The buildings marked A and C are contiguous to each other and also to the smoke house and dairy which are of small value..."

D. Record dated October 16, 1858.
Robert Anderson. Occupied by "a free colored man temporarily."

1. Dwelling (A) "of Brick covered with wood two stories high 39 by 23." Cost-$2,500.00. Value - $2,000.00.

2. Dairy (E) of wood; 12 by 12 feet. (No value.)

3. Kitchen (D) of wood 18 x 24 feet. (No value.)

4. Smokehouse (F) of wood; 10 by 10 feet. (No value.)

5. Stable (G) of wood; 16 by 16 feet. (No value.)

Note on map: "The buildings marked A. D. and E. and F. are contiguous within thirty feet of each other. Those marked B (store on southeast corner of lot) and C. have no contiguous building. D. E and F are under $100. value."

E.
Record dated August 10, 1846.
Robert Anderson. Occupied by "Robert Moreland in part". He rented the store and seems to have lived over it.

1. Dwelling (A) "of Brick & covered with wood - one

& a half stories unoccupied." Present value - $1,600.
Note on map: "The building A is contiguous to one wooden building."

2. Dairy shown in same position. No value; no dimensions.

3. Kitchen of wood. No value; no dimensions.

4. Smokehouse in same position. No value; no dimensions.

5. Stable in same position. No value; no dimensions.

F. Record dated September 16, 1853.
Robert Anderson. Occupied by "James Jennings in part."

1. Dwelling (A) "Brick covered with wood one & a half stories - 40 x 42." Present actual value - $2,100.00.

2. Wood dairy "under $100. value."

3. Wood kitchen (C), one and a half stories high, 22 by 24 feet. Present actual value - $200.00.

4. Wood smokehouse "under $100 value."

5. Wood stable (D); 16 by 16 feet. Present actual value - $100.00.

Note on map: "The buildings A and C. are within thirty feet of each other. The buildings B and D. are not within thirty feet of any building."

G. Record dated December 31, 1860.
Estate of Robert Anderson.

1. Dwelling (A); one and a half stories high; walls - brick; roof - wood. 40 x 42 feet. Present actual value - $1,500.00.

2. No dairy shown.

3. Kitchen (C), one and a half stories; walls - wood; roof - wood. 22 x 24 feet. Present actual value - $200.00

4. No smokehouse shown.

5. No stable shown.

Note on map: "A & C are contiguous to each other."
Note at end of Record: "1865 B. C. reported destroyed probably by enemy Dec., 1863."

H. Summary

By studying these records, it is seen that the dairy is shown on the maps of 1817, 1838, 1846 and 1853, and that it occupied approximately the same position on all of them, viz., directly behind the wing of the main house. The Records also agree that it was of wood, but the dimensions (12 x 12 feet) are given only in 1838. It was of small value, and was listed as "under $100. value" in 1853.

The kitchen is shown on all the maps and is listed in all the Insurance Records. They agree that it was built entirely of wood. The position of the kitchen remains practically the same, except that the distance between the building and Church Street varies. All of the maps show the longer side of the building parallel to Main Street and give the dimensions of the building as 18 x 24 feet, until the map of 1853. It appears that either a new kitchen was built between 1846 and 1853, or the old building was enlarged, as we find the dimensions changed to 22 x 24 feet on the last two maps. Furthermore, while the kitchen was described as being only one story in 1817, it is shown as having been one and a half stories high in 1853 and 1860. This supposition is also strengthened by the fact that the value of the kitchen shows a sudden increase:

	"Cost to build"	"Present value"
1817	$300.	$150.
1823	300.	100.
1830	200.	75.
1838	no value	
1846	no value	
1853		200.
1860		200.

The smokehouse is shown on all maps except those of 1823 and 1860. They agree that it was built of wood and occupied approximately the same position. The dimensions of the building (10 x 10 feet) are shown only on the map of 1838. No value is shown for the building except in 1853, when it was listed as being "under $100. value".

The stable is shown on all maps except that of 1860. In 1817 it was described as a building of wood, one story high and 16 feet square. In 1823 the dimensions are increased to 16 x 18 feet, but this appears to

have been an error, as the dimensions are again stated as 16 x 16 feet in 1828. The same dimensions (16 x 16 feet) appear on the map of 1853. The position of the building remains approximately the same (in the northeast corner of the lot, flush with the line of the Church Lot and the Church Street line), except in the map of 1853, where some distance is shown between the building and the Church Lot. In 1817, the "cost to build" is shown as $150.00, and the "actual value" is $100. The value is not shown again until 1853, at which time the "present actual value" was $100.00.

The Insurance Records show very slight change in the out-buildings during the forty-three years which they cover. Is it not likely that these buildings were standing at the time of the Revolution, as no other traces of buildings were found during the archeological excavation, and the period covered is only thirty-six years?

LIGHTFOOT HOUSE DEPENDENCIES

Insurance record	Dairy	Kitchen	Smokehouse	Stable
April 22, 1817	Shown on map; no dimensions	(C) Wood covered with wood; 16x24; one story	Shown on map; no dimensions	(D) Wood covered with wood; one story; 16x16.
April 7, 1822	Omitted	(C) "of wood entire"; 24x18.	Omitted	(D) "of wood entire"; 16x18.
October 16, 1838	(E) of wood; 12 x 12	(D) of wood; 18x24.	(F) of wood; 10x10.	(C) of wood; 16x16.
August 10, 1848	Shown on map; no dimensions	Of wood; no dimensions	Shown on map; no dimensions.	Shown on map; no dimensions
September 16, 1852	Of wood; no dimensions	(C) Wood; one and a half stories; 22x24.	Wood; no dimensions	(D) Wood; 16 x16.
December 31, 1860*	Omitted	(C) Walls-wood; roof-wood; one and a half stories; 22 x24.	Omitted.	Omitted.

*Note at end of record: "1865 B.C. reported destroyed probably by enemy Dec., 1863."

III. CONTEMPORARY DESCRIPTIONS

An Englishman visited Yorktown about 1760 and on his return to London wrote:

"You perceive a great air of opulence amongst the citizens of Yorktown who have (some of them) built themselves houses equal in magnificence to many of our superb ones at St. James, as those of Mr. Lightfoot, Nelson, etc...." [20]

This item is of very slight use for this memorandum, but it serves to prove that the Philip Lightfoot House was an outstanding building in the town, and that Mr. Lightfoot was a man of means and prominence.

IV. ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

A. Findings of Mr. Trudell

"Using the available insurance data as source material the rear of the Lightfoot lot was investigated by excavations starting July 8, 1935. The method used was that of Mr. Prentice Duell, one of the most prominent American archeologists. After but four days of exploratory endeavors the chimney of the kitchen (or a chimney #2860 - #2859 that was found at the site supposedly occupied by the former kitchen building) was discovered and uncovered, also during these same four days the foundation of the smokehouse was located and uncovered (No. 2851 - No. 2854) and the site of the stable (No. 2849) was located and cleared revealing the brick rubble floor. Evidences of the stable yard were clearly discernible in trenching revealing the soil strata." [21]

B. Findings of Mr. Day

"January 16, 1936

PRELIMINARY REPORT
EXCAVATIONS BEHIND LIGHTFOOT HOUSE
Yorktown, Virginia

Site and Previous Work:

Excavation in the back of Lot 36 in Yorktown was carried on under the

[20] Quoted from a London magazine of 1764 in Robert A. Lancaster, Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, (J. B Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1915), page 34.

[21] Clyde F. Trudell, "Report on the Restoration of the Lightfoot House," page 27.

direction of Mr. John Henderson, supervised by Mr. Day, during the last two weeks of July 1935. The Lightfoot House stands on the front part of this lot. The area excavated by Mr. Henderson included only the back sixty-five feet of the lot and did not include any of the brick foundations of the Lightfoot House or its associated buildings.

Before the archeologists were called in on this work some excavation had already been made under the direction of Mr. Trudell. This excavation was in the immediate vicinity of the house and around its foundations. Foundations of two small structures were found at that time, possibly the smoke house and kitchen or dairy shown in the contemporary insurance records. In addition, across trenches about two feet wide and from 2 1/2 to 8 1/2 feet apart had been dug across the entire back end of the lot between the foundations and the brick wall of the church property.

Archeological Investigation:

This previous excavation made it impossible for the archeologists to use a normal method of excavation. All that could be done was to record what information might be left. First, therefore, a plan was drawn showing the location of the trenches and then profiles of these cuts were drawn in order to show the condition of the soil at these places. Second, the earth between the trenches was removed to undisturbed soil and all disturbances were noted.

The long occupation of this site and the many changes and additions to the buildings in recent times have resulted in a greatly disturbed soil condition. Water, sewer and steam lines had all been laid in the ground causing considerable soil disturbance. Piers for the long frame wing of the building and supports for bracing its floor created more disturbances so that almost nowhere was it possible to find the soil conditions as they were in the eighteenth century.

Location of Stable Floor:

At the northwest corner of the lot, at the intersection of the brick wall and Church Street, was found the only indication of anything warranting special attention. This was a thin layer of crushed or fragmentary oyster shell underneath and partially mixed with a thin stratum of brick dust and fragments. This was all firmly packed with some intermixture of clay and suggested a floor level. The area of this deposit was about sixteen feet long (east to west) and about the same width (north to south) although the cross-trenching and other recent disturbances had destroyed the exact line. It was found just below the top soil layer, about 10 inches below the present surface.

According to the insurance drawings there was a stable in this location in the latter part of the 18th century. The character of the brick and oyster shell deposit makes it logical to assume that it is the floor of this stable.

Artifacts Found:

Very few fragments of artifacts were uncovered. Most of those which were found date from the late occupation of the site during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Numerous bricks were found, but most of these are of recent manufacture and were used in the modern (19th century) constructions. No other building materials were found in quantities sufficient to postulate their use in the Lightfoot House group.

General Conclusions:

In the section excavated by Mr. Henderson under my supervision the only point of note was the location of the site of the stable in the northwest corner of the lot. The remainder of this section was too much disturbed by the digging of the past fifty or seventy-five years to reveal any information about its earlier use.

Since the front (south) section of the lot was not excavated under my my supervision it is inadvisable for me to attempt any kind of report on it.

Only if a complete and thorough excavation of the remainder of the lot is undertaken will it be possible to write a final report on the work. For the present it is necessary to consider this as a preliminary report only."

C. Findings of Junior Architect Smith

NOTE: This office does not have a copy of Mr. Smith's report, nor his field notes and drawings, with the exception of Sheet 3 H.A.B.S. Va. 87.[22]

D. Summary

Mr. Trudell discovered by means of cross-ditching a well defined foundation, the dimensions of which agree with those given in the Insurance Records for the smokehouse. This foundation was shown on Mr. Smith's H.A.B.S. drawing as Foundation B. It can be seen that a very clearly defined step is shown on the southeastern side of this foundation.

[22]See letter of August 8, 1936 by Russell T. Smith to Mr. Thomas C. Vint, attention Mr. O'Neill, transmitting two original field sheets.

The foundation of the chimney discovered by Mr. Trudell appears to have led the Branch of Plans and Design to believe that the main axis of the kitchen should be parallel with Church Street, since chimneys were usually placed on the end of kitchens in colonial days. It is my belief that the main axis of the kitchen ran parallel with Main Street, as is shown in the Insurance Records. It is altogether likely that the building ran into what is now Church Street. The present property line does not follow the line of the street and the lot is not rectangular.[25] It is also my belief that the kitchen was, in 1781, a one story building, as is shown by the earliest Insurance Record. The building was later re-built or a new building was raised, as I have shown in a previous section of this memorandum.

This office has no copy of a map showing the information found by Mr. Trudell and Mr. Day on the stable foundation. It is likely that the present line between the Church lot and Lot 36 has changed, and if the latter lot is again made rectangular, it will add some additional property to the site of the stable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Historical Research

It is my belief that no additional historical information will be discovered about the Lightfoot House dependencies. As I stated in the introduction of this memorandum, it is very unlikely that any plans or detailed descriptions of outbuildings of such small value and importance would have been prepared. The York County Records and the Insurance Records must, of necessity, form our principal sources of information. Beyond that it will be necessary to fall back on that great guide in all architectural restoration work - precedent and custom. If the building is of the type built during the colonial period, constructed of the same type of material as the original, built on the foundations of the original building, and blends in with the group to form a pleasant picture, I feel that it has answered its purpose.

B. Archeological Investigation

It is recommended that the area in Lot 36 which has not been excavated, as shown on H.A.B.S. Va. 87, be excavated under trained archeological guidance, and plotted.

It appears to be useless to re-excavate the portions already covered by Messrs. Trudell, Day, and Smith, as the previous investigations have destroyed all evidence.

[25] See H.A.B.S. Va. 87, Sheet 5

It is recommended that permission be obtained from the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church to carry on an exploratory excavation in the southeast portion of the Church Lot in order to ascertain whether the stable floor runs into the Church property.

C. Plans No. NHP-COL-1166-C-1-1 and 2-2.

1. The plans for the dairy should be held in abeyance until the archeological excavations are completed. The Insurance Records show the dairy closer to the house than the plan does.

2. It is my belief that the kitchen is oriented incorrectly, that the main axis of the building should be parallel with Main Street and not Church Street. It is also recommended that the kitchen be changed to one story instead of one and a half stories.[24]

3. The smokehouse meets with my approval, except that I believe that the entrance was on the southeastern side of the building. A step was very clearly indicated on the foundation.[25]

4. The remainder of the buildings, viz., the wellhead, privy, should be omitted until they are definitely found in the archeological excavations.

5. It is my belief that too much space is allotted to gardens. It is recommended that the gardens be confined to the region south of the kitchen, and the area north of the kitchen be turned over to the service yard.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward M. Riley

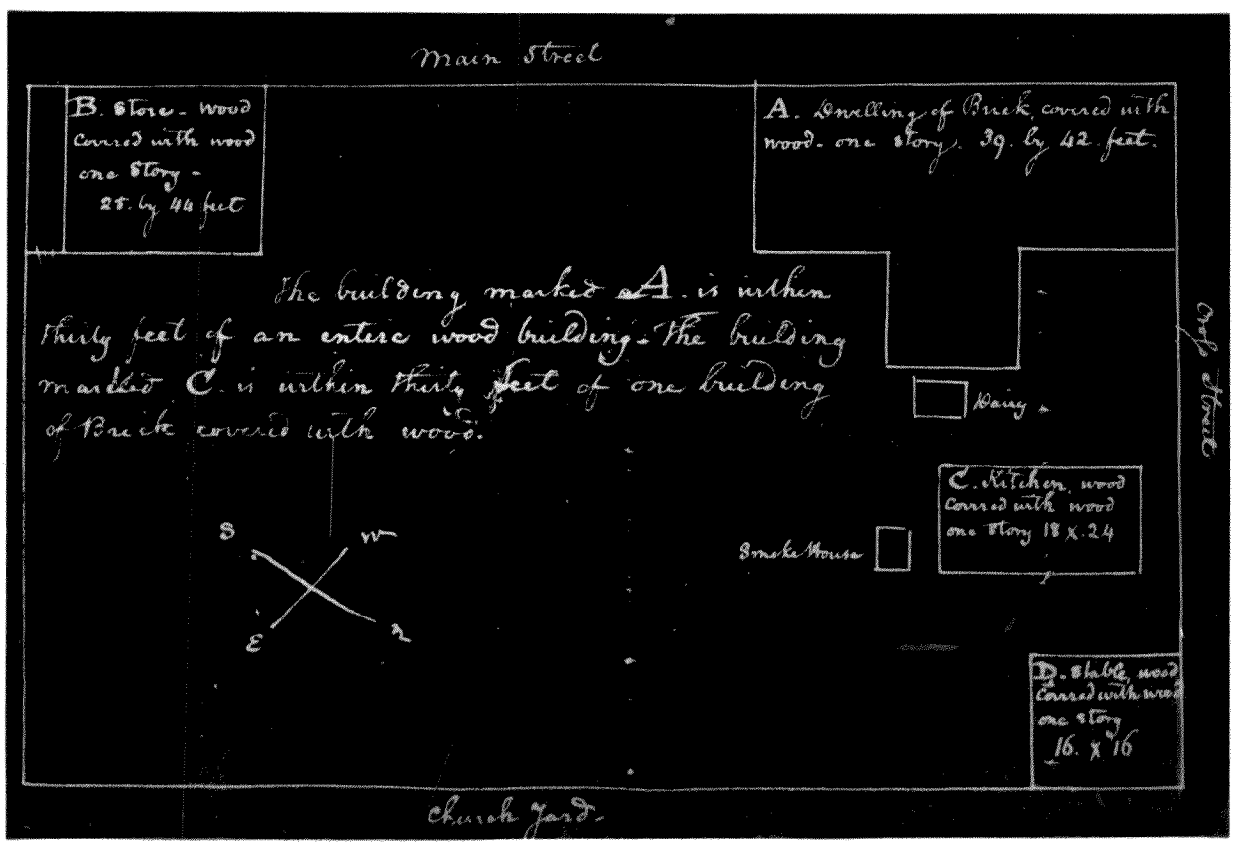
Edward M. Riley
Junior Historian

EMR.GLD

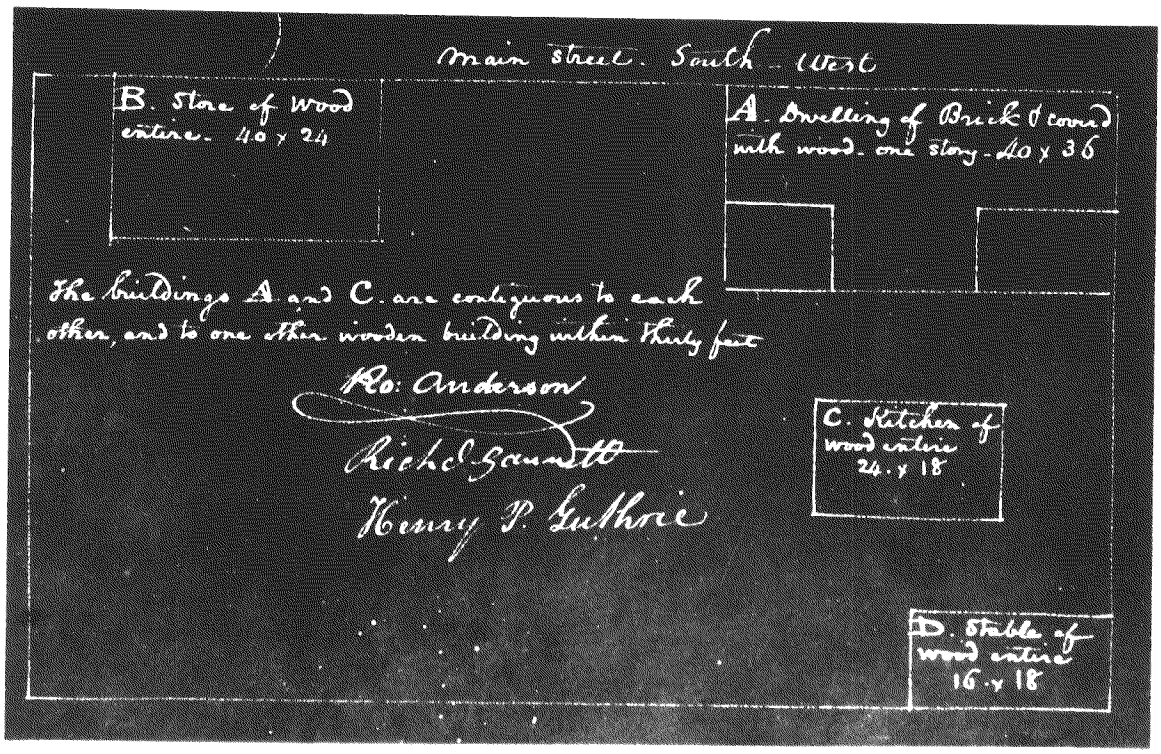
[24] See Part II of this memorandum, "H. Summary".

[25] See H.A.B.S. Va. 87, Sheet 3, and Photograph #2851.

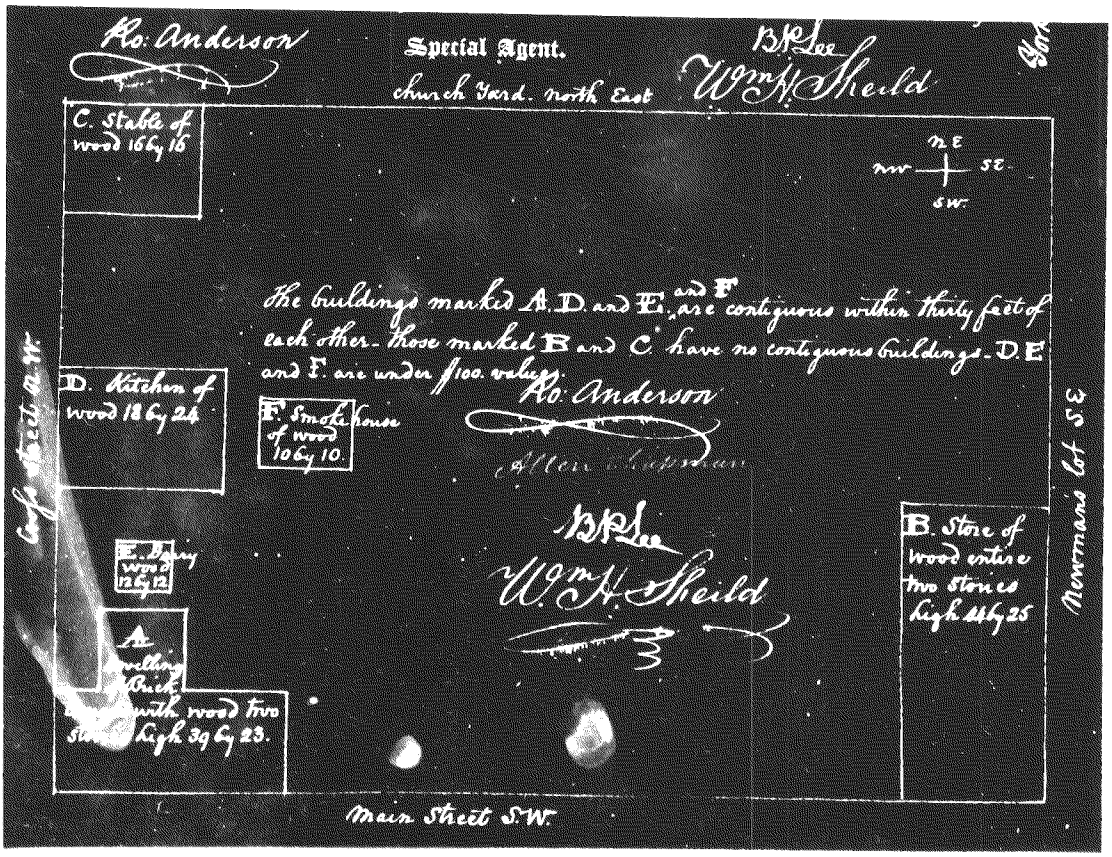
cc: Mr. Ronald Lee
Regional Office
Mr. Vint



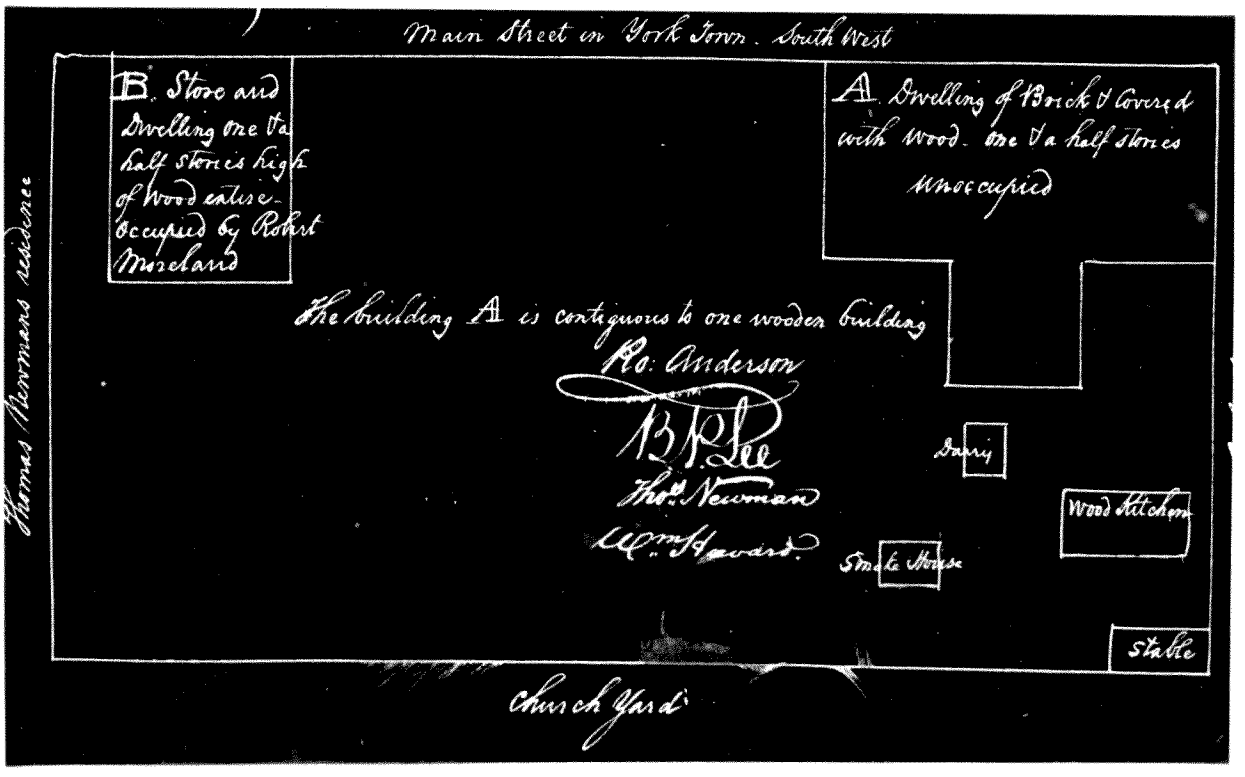
Photograph #7043
Records of the Mutual Insurance Society, Richmond, Virginia,
page 64, dated April 22, 1817



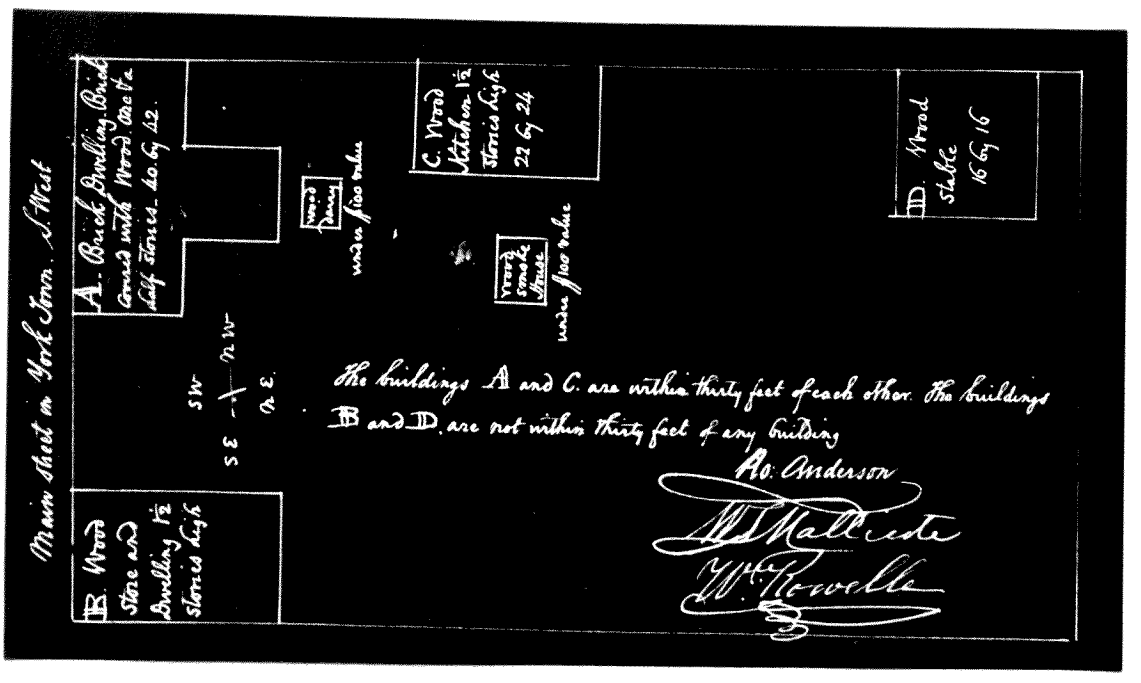
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Records of the Mutual Insurance Society, Richmond, Virginia, page 66, dated April 7, 1823.



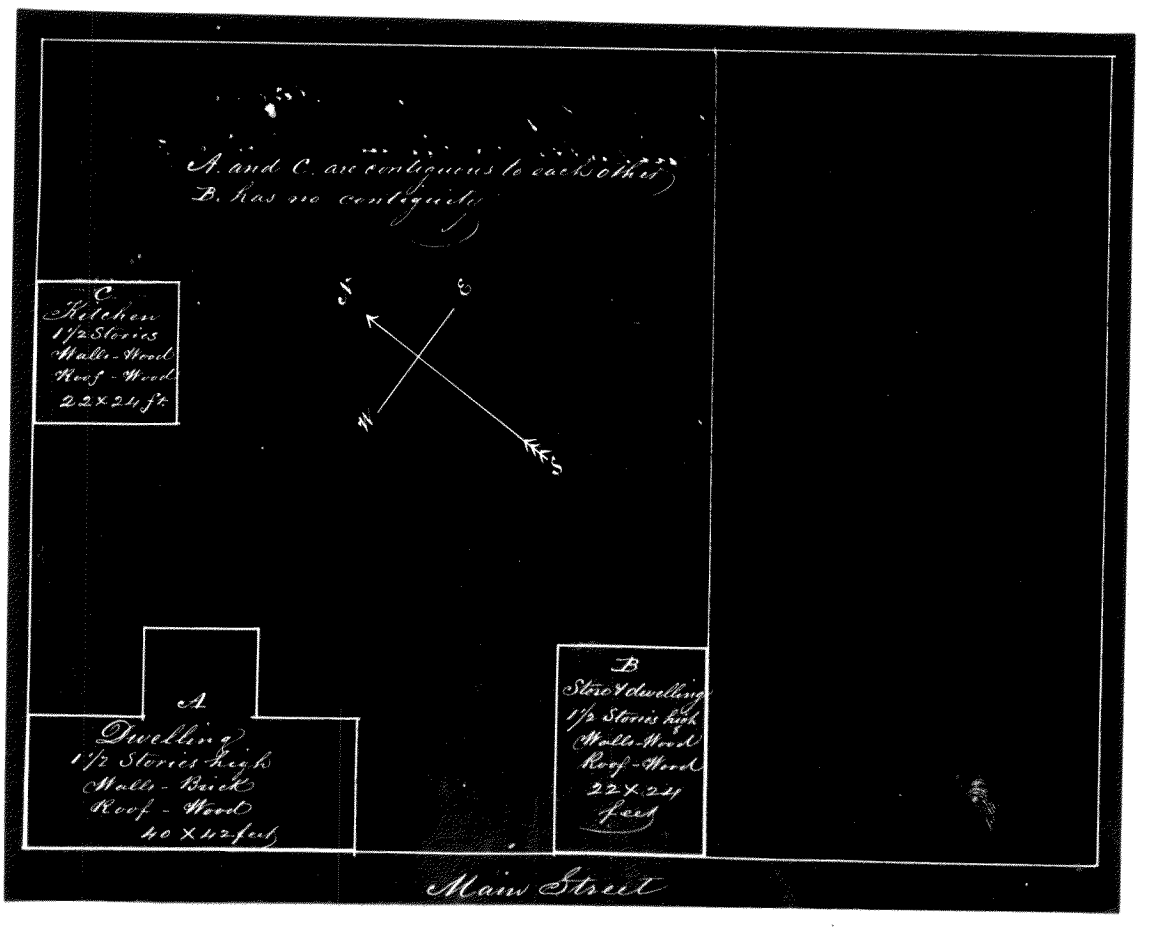
Photograph #7045
Records of the Mutual Insurance Society, Richmond, Virginia,
page 70, dated October 16, 1838.



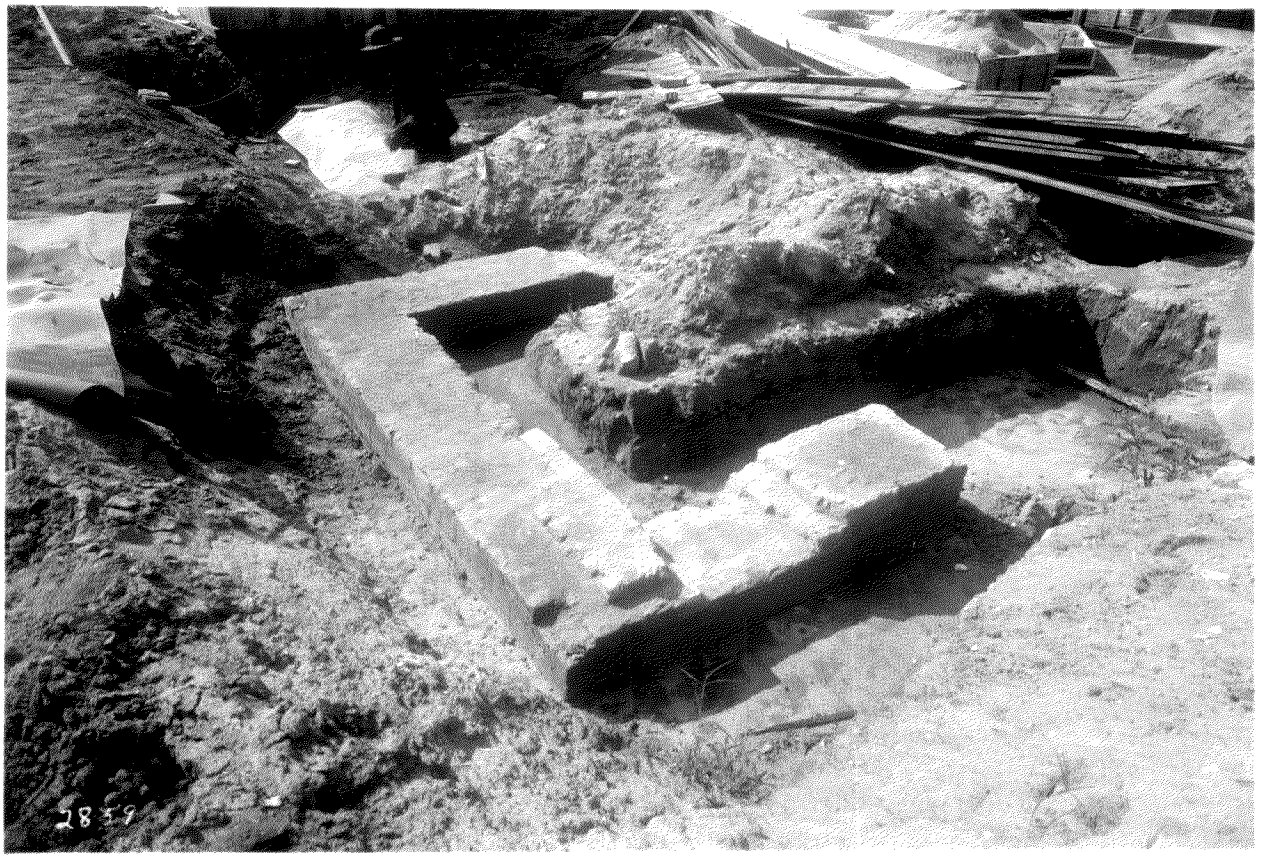
Photograph #7048
Records of the Mutual Insurance Society, Richmond, Virginia,
page 7?, dated August 10, 1846.



Photograph #7047
Records of the Mutual Insurance Society, Richmond, Virginia,
page 74, dated September 16, 1853.



Photograph #7048
Records of the Mutual Insurance Society, Richmond, Virginia,
page 76, dated December 31, 1860.



Photograph #2859
Lightfoot House Kitchen chimney foundation, July 30, 1935



Photograph #2860
Lightfoot House Kitchen chimney foundation, July 30, 1935



Photograph #2850
Lightfoot House Smokehouse foundations, showing north and west walls. July 24, 1935.



Photograph #2851
Lightfoot House Smokehouse foundations, looking north,
July 24, 1935.



Photograph #2853
Lightfoot House Smokehouse foundations, showing probable door steps on east wall, July 24, 1935.



Photograph #2854
Lightfoot House Smokhouse foundations, looking north, July 24, 1935.



Photograph #5910
Detail of brick in Lightfoot House Dairy, July 9, 1956.



Photograph #2849
Lightfoot House Stable site, showing remains of brick rubble floor, July 24, 1935.